

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY
OF
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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Abstract

Beginning in late 2006 and extending to 2007, a project by The Ottery Group on behalf of Southampton County and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources was undertaken to complete and correct a comprehensive survey of historic structures within Southampton 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 fifteen historic resources—ten at the reconnaissance level and five at the intensive level. The final task is a scripted PowerPoint presentation about the history and architecture of Southampton County.

The previous survey was conducted between 1999-2001 by MAAR Associates, Inc. whose research staff surveyed a total of 196 historic properties located throughout the county. Of these, 10 were recorded to the Intensive level. In addition, structures over the age of fifty years were circled on topographic maps, but not recorded on IPS forms. Ten architectural sites were recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as was the Courtland Potential Historic District. Recommendations for further study and for preservation planning in Southampton County are also presented.

Acknowledgments

Principal Investigator and Project Manager for the survey project was Thomas Bodor, Director of Cultural Resource Services for The Ottery Group, Inc. Rebecca Howell Crew served as 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 project, assessing the status of DHR's files on each property. Camille Agricola Bowman, Architectural Historian, was our project liaison from the Tidewater Regional Office of the DHR. Susan Smead, Cost-Share Manager, also assisted us from the DHR offices in Richmond. Quatro Hubbard, Jeff Smith, and Drury Wellford in the DHR Archives also provided technical assistance. James Randolph, Assistant County Administrator, served as our local contact and identified the resources to survey in this phase of the project.

For the previous survey, Ronald Thomas, President of MAI, Inc. served as Project Manager and Principle Investigator. Stephen Del Sordo was in charge of all data gathering, and research and survey activities. A number of other individuals were cited by MAAR. Jessica Billy, assisted by Diane Puleo, undertook computer inputting on survey forms. Ms. Puleo, graduate student at the University of Delaware's 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	vi
Abstract.....	ii
Acknowledgments.....	iii
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 Survey Coverage and Study Area.....	1
1.3 Survey Methodology.....	2
1.3.1 Background Research.....	2
1.3.2 On-Site Survey.....	2
2.0 HISTORIC CONTEXTS.....	4
2.1 Introduction to Historic Contexts.....	4
2.2 Overview of Civil History.....	4
2.3 Native Americans (to 1607).....	5
2.4 European Settlement to Society (1607-1750).....	6
2.5 Colony to Nation (1750-1789).....	10
2.6 Early National Period (1789-1830).....	13
2.7 Antebellum Period (1830-1860).....	16
2.8 Civil War (1861-1865).....	18
2.9 Reconstruction (1865-1880).....	18
2.10 Growth (1880-1900).....	19
2.11 Modern Southampton County (1900-1950).....	20
3.0 REPRESENTATIVE BUILDING TYPES OF SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY.....	22
3.1 Introduction.....	22
3.2 Domestic/Residential Buildings.....	22
3.3 Government/Law/Political.....	35
3.4 Education.....	35
3.5 Subsistence/Agriculture: Historic Plantations/Farmsteads.....	38
3.6 Religious Structures.....	42
3.7 Social Structures.....	43
3.8 Industry/Processing/Extraction.....	43
3.9 Recreation/Arts.....	44
3.10 Military/Defense.....	44
3.11 Commerce/Trade.....	44
3.12 Transportation/Communication.....	46
3.13 Health Care/ Medicine.....	46
4.0 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS.....	48
4.1 Survey Background.....	48
4.2 National Register of Historic Places Criteria.....	48
4.3 Previously Identified Resources.....	50
4.4 Survey Findings.....	51
4.5 VDHR Architectural Styles.....	51
4.6 Periods of Construction.....	52
4.7 Recommendations for Proposed National Register Properties.....	53
4.7.1 Courtland Historic District (201-5001).....	54
4.7.2 Properties Surveyed at the Intensive Level.....	54
4.8 Planning Recommendations for Southampton County.....	56
4.8.1 Land Use Issues.....	56
4.8.2 National Register of Historic Places.....	58

4.8.3 Historic Preservation Plan or Element.....	58
4.8.4 Additional Financial Incentives for Historic Preservation	59
4.8.6 Local History Center and Historic Study Topics	59
4.8.7 Geographic Information System (GIS)	60
4.8.8 Archeological Data Base	60
4.8.9 Additional Documentation of Historic Resources.....	60
5.0 REFERENCES CITED	62

APPENDICES

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

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

- Figure 1.1 Location Map of Southampton County, Virginia
- Figure 2.1 White-De Bry 1590 Map of Virginia
- Figure 2.2 Detail of John Smith 1612 *Map of Virginia*
- Figure 2.3 Frye and Jefferson's 1751 Map of Virginia
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- Figure 3.1 Clements (087-0011)
- Figure 3.2 Riverview Farm (087-5379)
- Figure 3.3 Beechwood (087-0002)
- Figure 3.4 Rotherwood (087-0045)
- Figure 3.5 Rochelle House (201-0002)
- Figure 3.6 Elm Grove (087-0103)
- Figure 3.7 Rebecca Vaughan House (087-0047)
- Figure 3.8 Rose Hill (087-0052)
- Figure 3.9 Benjamin Pope Homestead (087-5419)
- Figure 3.10 Beaton House (174-5002-0033)
- Figure 3.11 Charles Pretlow Farmhouse (087-5448)
- Figure 3.12 22125 Main Street Courtland (201-5001-0008)
- Figure 3.13 Feltz House (174-5002-0023)
- Figure 3.14 22160 Main Street Courtland (201-5001-0020)
- Figure 3.15 Berlin (087-5339)
- Figure 3.16 Old Wakefield School (087-5411)
- Figure 3.17 Simmons Home Farm (087-5378)
- Figure 3.18 Cedarview (087-5395)
- Figure 3.19 Joseph Beauregard Store (087-5513)

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 ten resources at the reconnaissance level and five resources at the intensive level.

In October of 1999, VDHR commissioned MAAR Associates, Inc. (MAI) to conduct a cultural resources survey of Southampton County, Virginia. The primary goal of the project was to conduct an architectural survey of standing historic resources in the community. All buildings over fifty years of age were to be surveyed. Of these, approximately 180 structures were to be recorded at a reconnaissance level and at least twenty at the intensive level. The remaining buildings over fifty years of age were to be circled on topographic maps, to be used in the future for planning and survey purposes. Survey products were to include Data Sharing System (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 United States Geological Survey (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.

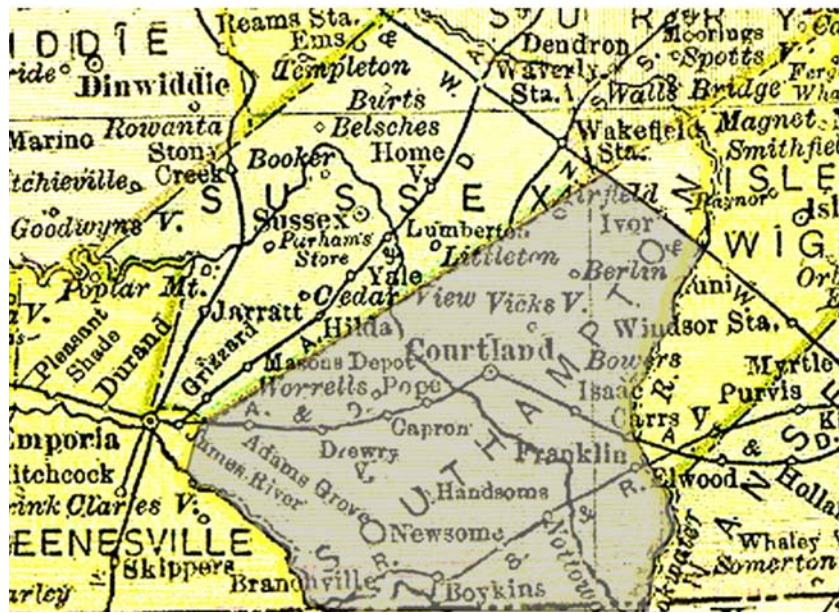
1.2 Survey Coverage and Study Area

Southampton County is located along the Virginia/North Carolina border and is centered around the Blackwater River and the Nottoway River (Figure 1.1). It is part of a group of counties below the James River that were settled by Europeans later than the lands along the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The rivers in Southampton County flow to North Carolina and the Albemarle Sound. The land is mostly flat with some higher elevations in the northern section of the county. There are extensive swamp and marsh lands along the Blackwater River and a portion of the Dismal Swamp extends from North Carolina into Southampton County.

The county is a mostly rural area. The principal towns within the boundaries of Southampton County include Courtland and Boykins. Immediately adjacent to the east is the independent city of Franklin. A number of smaller communities such as Ivor, Newsoms, Sedley, and Sebrell are spread about the county. Agriculture and forestry are the principal industries. Franklin, which provides most of the retail needs for Southampton County, has a large pulp and lumber mill. No interstate highways are located within the borders of Southampton County. U.S. Route 58, a divided highway, does run from west to east through the county and U.S. Route 460, also a divided highway, passes through the northern tip of the county at Ivor. Interstate 95 passes west of the county at Emporia.

Most of the modern development has taken place around the City of Franklin. There has been some growth and development near Courtland as well. Newly constructed dwellings are spread throughout the county along many of the principal and secondary roads to provide housing for the non-agricultural sector of the county (see Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1: Location Map of Southampton County, Virginia



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 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 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 Southampton County, but rather to provide a general overview of the county's development over time to facilitate the dating, identification, and evaluation or potentially significant resources.

1.3.2 On-Site Survey

After holding initial county meetings and conducting preliminary background research, MAAR studied Southampton County through a windshield survey. This was followed by a reconnaissance survey, which required visiting individual properties and 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 windshield survey was comprehensive, meaning that every road within the survey area was driven to look for all buildings over fifty years old. Modern subdivisions and recently developed areas were also subjected

to windshield survey. All buildings which appeared to be at least fifty years of age were circled on 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, rev. 2003). Then the survey team picked out the better examples of a wide range of types to record on IPS survey forms. This involved the second step of returning to the field to fill out DSS forms manually. Black and white photographs were taken and site plans drawn for each property.

For the 2006-2007 survey, the Ottery Group received recommendations of properties to survey from Jay Randolph, Southampton County Assistant County Administrator and Lynda Updike, President of the Southampton County Historical Society. Quatro Hubbard, VDHR Archivist, and Calder Loth, VDHR Senior Architectural Historian, requested information on resources that were missing information in their VDHR files. 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 spread 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 others develop a better understanding of the forces that have shaped the growth and appearance of any geographic area or a specific kind of resource. The preparation of a historic context can help people 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 and not in another.

The VDHR has adopted the historic context as a specific method to understand the physical patterns of development and as one means of determining the significance of the historic and vintage buildings, structures, sites, and objects that mark the growth of a community or region. The VDHR and those who work within its administrative and regulatory processes use the historic context and the criteria of significance established for the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register to evaluate the impact of government projects or government-regulated projects on properties that might have historical or cultural significance to a community or to a region. In the context of the Cost-Share survey program developed by the VDHR, the fieldwork and research of the historic property survey are activities that enable VDHR staff and interested organizations and citizens to see the physical reality of a historic context which may have been developed through library research without benefit of the work within the geographic area defined for the historic context.

In Southampton County, historic contexts have been prepared to help organize the historic property survey and to collect the differing properties included in the survey together so that decisions might be made as to how best to encourage the recognition of Southampton's history and heritage. The historic contexts and the properties included in the survey represent the current extent of information on the properties that have managed to survive the impacts and effects of time and development. The historic context and the survey results can also be incorporated into the Southampton County's planning processes and systems as one method of encouraging the incorporation of the county's history and architecture into future projects and development.

2.2 Overview of Civil History

Initially all of the early Virginia settlements were under the authority of the Virginia Company and governed directly from Jamestown. The exception to this was the so-called "particular plantations." As an inducement to attract settlers to Virginia once news of the "starving time" had reached England, large tracts of land were offered by the Virginia Company to anyone with sufficient wealth to transport new settlers to Virginia at their own expense. One of the inducements to invest in the "particular plantations" was the proviso that these new settlements would not be subject to laws passed by the Company for Jamestown and other settlements.

During the 1620s the Virginia Company divided the James River settlements into four ancient boroughs or corporations, including James City, Elizabeth City (originally Kecoughtan), the City of Henrico, and Charles City (Cocke 1964:31). In 1634, the Virginia Assembly reorganized the colony by dividing the settled areas of Virginia into eight counties, originally called shires after their English counterparts. At this time, the four existing corporations or boroughs became counties and four new counties were created—Warwick County, Isle of Wight County, Accomac County, and Charles River County. As originally laid out, Isle of Wight County was larger than the present day county and was originally called Warrosquoyake. It included the territory that is now Southampton County. In 1635 there were 532 inhabitants of Warrosquoyake County. The area that is now Southampton County had nearly 3,000 tithables by 1745. The Blackwater River was considered a barrier to going

the 30 some miles required for muster and attending court (Historical Records Survey WPA 1940:1). In 1749 Isle of Wight County was split, and the part that was west of the Blackwater River became Southampton County. Southampton County is bordered on the northwest by Surry and Sussex Counties, on the west by Greensville County, on the east by Isle of Wight County and on the south by lands of the State of North Carolina.

Southampton County is governed largely at the county level through the courts as it has been since its inception in 1749. Initially the county court met in the private dwelling of Elizabeth Ricks. The public buildings of the county were “fixed” on the lands of Elizabeth Exum, near Flower’s Bridge (now Courtland). The first courthouse was finished by 1752. Since 1870, Southampton County has operated under the Board of Supervisors plan of local government. A New England style township system was created in 1869, with one supervisor, one clerk, one assessor, one collector, one road commissioner, etc. This system was abolished by an 1875 amendment, but the geographical and electoral divisions persisted as magisterial districts, and the board of supervisors and the county treasurer continued to exist. In 1902, the county court was abolished and its former duties and powers were shifted to the circuit court (Historic Records Survey WPA 1940: 22-23). Townships of 1870 included Drewryville, Boykins, Franklin, Jerusalem, Berlin, Ivor, and Newsoms Depot. Capron was created in 1915. They exist today as magisterial districts. In 1940 the county had six incorporated towns: Courtland, Franklin, Boykins, Capron, Ivor and Branchville. Newsoms was incorporated in 1946. Franklin became a city in 1961.

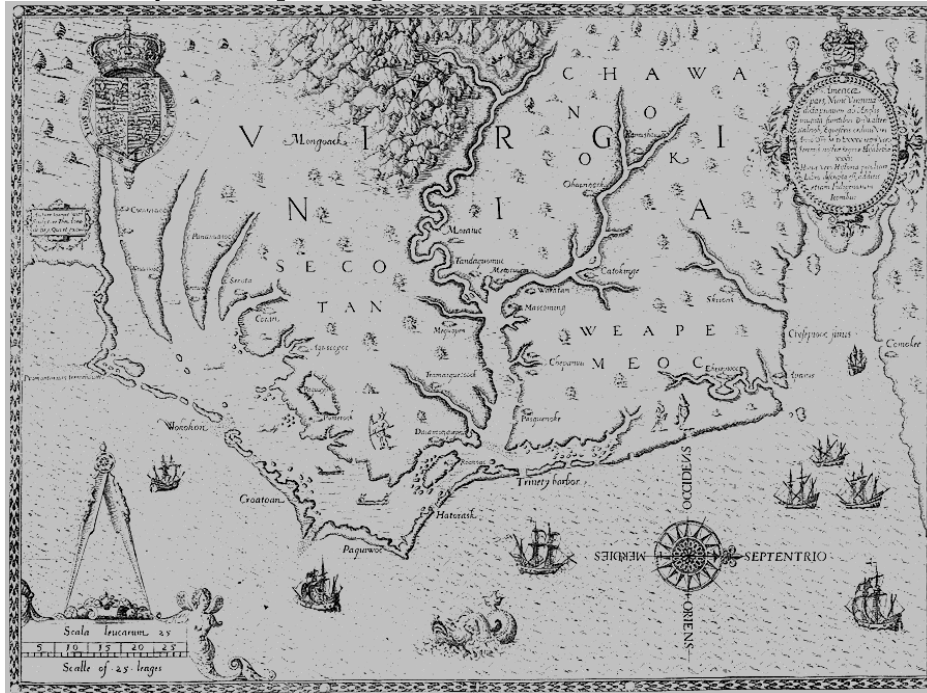
Until 1786, the Church of England was the established church of Virginia, which meant that Anglican parishes were defined by law, churches were built from public funds, and the clergy was maintained at public expense (Salmon 1983: 167). The first churches in Virginia, which are sometimes called “plantation churches,” were apparently established on a much less formal basis when there were enough people in a newly-settled area to form a congregation (Cocke 1964:169). In 1643, Isle of Wight County was divided into two parishes. One was the “Lower Parish” which was later renamed “Newport Parish” and the other was the “Upper Parish” later called “Warrosquoyake Parish.” In 1743, the “Nottaway Parish” was established to minister the lands west of the Blackwater River. Churches in the parish were at Seacock Chapel, Nottaway Chapel and a chapel at Flower’s Bridge. In 1749, with the establishment of Southampton County, the Nottaway Parish included the bounds of the new county. In 1762, the lands south of the Nottaway River became St. Luke’s Parish.

2.3 Native Americans (to 1607)

The human occupation of the land that is now Southampton County in Virginia extends more than 10,000 years into the past. The land was first used by bands of Native Americans who migrated east and south toward the waters that flow into the Chesapeake Bay and then into the Atlantic Ocean. Over time, the Native Americans developed an agricultural tradition and began to live in settlements that provided an identity for them as separate from other Native Americans. During the last years of the sixteenth century and into the early years of the seventeenth century, tribes or groups along the Coastal Plain of Eastern Virginia above the James River had been formed into a chiefdom or arrangement for mutual protection and trade and as a method of reducing intertribal warfare. Known as the Powhatan Chiefdom, these Indians represented more than 150 separate villages of the Algonquian-speaking bands or tribes. It was this chiefdom that greeted the Jamestown settlers in 1607. By one estimate, the chiefdom included between 14,000 and 21,000 individuals (Egloff 1992:43).

Below the James River, the Native Americans belonged to the Iroquoian language family group of Indians and were a very distinct people from the Powhatans. The Nottaway Tribe and the Meherrin Tribe had established villages and both hunted and farmed for food. Each village was controlled by a chief. Because they were below the James River, they had little initial contact with the Jamestown settlers and the English colonists who poured into the Virginia colony during the first years of settlement. Their lands, along with that of other tribes, were shown on a 1590 map of the region known as the DeBry Map (Balfour 1989:10) (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: White-De Bry 1590 Map of Virginia



Eventually, the land that the Nottoways and the Meherrins occupied became attractive to fur traders and then to farmers. Although they did not participate in the major Indian revolts of the seventeenth century, they did come under colonial control by the Indian Treaty of 1677. The two tribes were given reservations near Courtland. However, the Meherrin Tribe soon lost control of their land to white planters. The Nottoway Tribe maintained control over their reservation until the end of the eighteenth century (Egloff 1992: 45).

Europeans had begun to appear off the Atlantic Coast during the sixteenth century as the nations of Europe began to vie with each other for control of the “New World.” Spanish, Dutch, Portugese, French, and English ships sailed along the coast looking for trade and trying to determine the extent of their European rival interests in this new land. These early explorers were seeking economic opportunities to be had from mineral extraction such as gold and silver, and the century was marked by warfare and open hostility among the European nations.

For the English, debate over the role and rule of the King resulted in even more violence. As would be expected, there are no above-ground physical remains from this early period. 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, permanent camps and villages. Almost all of the more permanent village and encampment sites are located along watercourses. Accordingly, much of the archeological record for this early period has been recovered in the course of environmental clearance activities before government-financed development projects or as the result of research projects. 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 Europeans had a thriving and well-developed culture and social system which had served them well for thousands of years.

2.4 European Settlement to Society (1607-1750)

Although a small group of Spanish Jesuits did establish a short-lived mission around what is now Richmond at the end of the sixteenth century, 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 at Jamestown on the James River; within the current bounds of James City County. During their short stay at Cape Henry and on their journey to Jamestown, the colonists set out small groups of men to explore the Chesapeake Bay and the York and James Rivers. These expeditions found that the area was occupied by a number of Native American tribes who had been living in the region for many thousands of years.

The settlement site at Jamestown Island (Figure 2.2) was chosen because it was considered defensible from attack by the local native peoples and was sufficiently far upriver from the Chesapeake Bay that the colony would have warning of any potential military threat from Spain. In addition to the construction of dwellings and support buildings plus a fortified structure, the leaders of the Colony organized a mapping expedition commanded by Captain John Smith. Smith's map from 1607 shows the Jamestown colony but shows some distance between the settlement and the nearest Indian villages.

Figure 2.2: Detail of 1612 John Smith *Map of Virginia*



As the Virginia Colony grew during the seventeenth century, the colonial settlement began to expand along the Coast and along the navigable waterways of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. However, except for fur trading and other contacts, the farms and villages of the Colony remained north of the James River for the first ten years. Eventually, the colonists spread south over the James River and began to fill in the region to the Blackwater River. As the settlement expanded, relations between the Native Americans and the colonists began to deteriorate. Incidents of theft and murder can be traced to both sides but the increasing size of the English colony was soon felt by the Nottoway and the Meherrins of the region and, most certainly, by the Powhatan chiefdom which were directly in the path of the aggressive colonists.

One result of the conflict between the Indians and the Colonists was the first Indian uprising in 1622. It appears that the Nottoway and the Meherrins chose to support the Colonists and did not participate in that uprising. While there does not appear to be a direct connection, the Colony Government established the Blackwater River as the limit for settlement in 1634 (Parramore 1978: 3). In that same year, the first eight counties for Virginia were created. The closest county to the land that would become Southampton County was Isle of Wright County, which included most of the land south of the James River.

In popular tradition, tobacco is often held to be the first and principal crop in the Southern English colonies. In Virginia, John Rolfe is credited with planting the first 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 for several generations. However, not all of the land in the Colony was placed into tobacco. Legislation was passed that established markets and trading days and sites in each of the counties.

The rapid expansion of the colony into the 1640s and the pressure for new lands for tobacco and food crops, as well as a desire for new plantation and farmsteads along the navigable waterways, caused new troubles with the Native Americans of Virginia. After the 1622 war, the government had made it illegal to provide the Indians with guns and discouraged trade with the Indians. As time went by, many of those laws were altered or ignored but the friction continued. The local tribes attacked the outlying settlements and farms of Virginia in 1644.

As the Virginia colony grew and matured into its second and third generations, efforts were made by the local elected leaders, merchants, and the by the English Crown to develop some order in the colony and to create more normal English institutions and systems. A number of laws were passed, with varying success, to establish regular towns and to force people to live within settled communities rather than on outlying farms. The English Crown attempted to regulate commerce between England and the colonies through a series of navigation acts as well as through imposing restrictions on local manufacturing. In addition, there were a number of serious challenges to the legal authority of the colony and the crown from the retreating Native Americans and from factions of colonists. The most notable of the internal disputes was Bacon's Rebellion of 1677.

After the political turmoil of the 1660s and 1670s had subsided, the Virginia House of Burgesses signed a treaty with the various Native Americans. The Treaty of 1677 formalized the relationship between the tribes and the colony. As a result of this treaty, the Nottoway and the Meherrin Tribes were assigned or reserved tracts of land that had always been part of their home range. They were also given some limited rights in the colonial courts as protection from damages caused by the colonists.

The population of the Virginia colony continued to grow and to expand ever westward. In 1705, the House of Burgesses lifted the restriction on settlement beyond the Blackwater River. Most likely, this was simply codification of an established fact. Another Indian War occurred in 1711 and lasted four years. The Nottoways and the Meherrins again supported the colonists but there was some concern over their loyalty on the part of the current governor. During the war with the western tribes, colonial expansion continued and moved into the area beyond the Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers. By 1715, the colony held 72,500 European-Americans and 23,000 African Americans. Most of the latter were slaves.

As the Virginia colony expanded, the colonies of North Carolina and Virginia began to become more concerned with the exact boundary between the two colonies. Several efforts had been made to settle the issue. A number of surveys were made, with the 1728 survey organized as the most efficient, and the one to which both colonies and the English Crown agreed upon. That 1728 survey is remarkable for the land issues that it resolved and also for one of the members, William Byrd of Westover, who kept a journal of his trip. Similar in nature to his last journey between the two colonies in 1711, Byrd made extensive notes about the land, the Native Americans, and the colonists whom they encountered. Byrd and the survey party found a region that contained both Indians in settled villages, using newly understood English models of farming and settlement, and colonists living on scattered farms. There were a few Anglican churches along the border and an occasional tavern (Parramore 1978: 28).

Once the boundary line and the several Indian wars were settled, colonists poured into the region below the Blackwater River. They occupied farms and established lands along the Blackwater River and along the Nottoway River in order to both send to and receive products from the Albemarle Sound of North Carolina and thence into the trade routes to England, Europe, or to the other colonies. During the 1730s and the 1740s,

settlement expanded and the newcomers found that the courts for the Isle of Wright County were too far for their needs. They petitioned the House of Burgesses for a new county. Their request was granted in 1749 and Southampton County was formed. Several other counties were formed at the same time, with the 1750s bringing even more counties into the governmental system as settlement expanded further west.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, the landscape of Southampton County had been formed on the 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 in the years before the American Revolution. For these peoples, the buildings that they erected and the agricultural patterns that they followed were mostly based on English precedents and traditions formed by the regions and time periods from which they left. 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 unless they had occupations which required living in a village or town. As a result, there were few villages in Southampton County or elsewhere in Virginia.

The “Englishness” of the landscape is especially true for the dwelling houses. 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 the 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 tenon joints to create a sturdy structure. Most of these buildings were built on the ground without benefit of any foundation. Others set posts into the ground for a more stable building. However, these houses were not intended to last for generations, and all of the buildings from the sixteenth century in the middle colonies have been lost, except for some rare surviving buildings that are contained within enlarged or improved structures (Carson 1981). Except for the small Swedish and Finnish settlements in Delaware or on the upper Chesapeake Bay and the Germanic settlements in Pennsylvania, log buildings were not known in the middle colonies during the first half of the eighteenth century and it is unlikely that any such buildings were constructed in Virginia. However, it should be noted that a form of log construction was used in Virginia early in the eighteenth century. William Byrd records in his journal of the 1711 colonial boundary survey, “Most of the Houses in this part of the Country are Log-houses, covered with Pine or Cypress shingles, 3 feet long and one broad. They are hung upon Laths with Peggs, and their doors too turn upon Wooden Hinges, and have wooden Locks to Secure them, so that the Building is finisht without Nails or other Iron-Work.” (Parrimore 1978:27, Lounsbury 1994). This is an intriguing description but it does not appear to describe a horizontal-laid log building with corner notches to secure the ends.

The Africans who were brought to the Colony as slaves were housed in quarters constructed or designed by their colonial masters. As a result, the early buildings used by African Americans reflected English traditions. During the first and second generations of African American life in America, the African patterns of housing were emphasized quietly until African Americans were able to exert greater influence over their housing (Vlach 1993: 231).

Almost all that is known about the physical remains of the built environment in Southampton County for the period up to 1750 has been documented by archeological excavation. There is an extensive written record which includes government documents and church records, as well as traveler’s accounts and descriptions. In addition, there are genealogical records and family papers which detail life in the Colony. Few buildings which were constructed prior to 1750 in Southampton County have survived to the present time. Clements, a brick colonial house located on the Blackwater River floodplain east of Ivor, appears to have been constructed sometime after 1720.

2.5 Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

After the creation of Southampton County, the residents had a great deal of administrative work to undertake. The courts had to be established and a location fixed for them to meet on a regular basis. As a reflection of the ever-changing nature of those early years in Southampton County and in a pattern that is similar to other Virginia counties, the location of the court changed frequently before a permanent location was chosen. The first few courts or assemblies were held in private homes within the general vicinity of the present town of Courtland. The first permanent court building was constructed in 1752 on land that was developing as a commercial center in the town of Jerusalem (Figure 2.3). The name of this town was eventually changed to Courtland in 1888. While several commercial or trading villages had been formed early in the European-American development of the Southampton County region, they were small posts along the river system that flowed into the Albemarle Sound. The most important of these was the small village of South Quay. Located on the Blackwater River near the Virginia - North Carolina border, the landing there provided an outlet for goods to flow in and out of the lower southside region of Virginia.

After holding court in several private residences in the vicinity of what became Courtland, in 1749, the justices were commissioned to purchase two acres of land for construction of the courthouse. This building was to be 40 feet long and 24 feet wide and was completed in 1752. In June 1750, the court provided for the building of a prison with a pillory, stocks and whipping post.

Six years after the county was formed, the 1755 list of tithables for Southampton County recorded 2,009 people. These were the people who were eligible to vote and who were the visible part of the county. The tithables most likely represent a total population of about 4,000 European Americans and 2,000 African Americans. (Parramore 1978: 30).

Figure 2.3: Frye and Jefferson's 1751 Map of Virginia



The principal business of the county court was to order the construction of roads and bridges and to approve applications for ferries and taverns. The Southampton Court was also responsible for the inspection of exports from the county. The Court appointed inspectors for beef, port, flour, tar, and pitch. Inspectors were not appointed for grains or for tobacco. By inference, these appointments would imply that there was very little tobacco grown in Southampton County and that the wheat and corn crops which had become popular in the older Tidewater counties were not common to this region. However, court records also indicate that tobacco was still the “currency” of the land. This is evidence in 1749 when James Took Scott required payment of 61 pounds of tobacco for one day’s court attendance. Additionally, another example involved 1,120 pounds of tobacco for seven days attendance, etc. (Joyner 1978:36). An inventory for Joseph Denson in September 1765 included 49 barrels of corn, a tobacco hogshead, and three empty barrels (Ibid: 43-44). The estate, still paying taxes in 1770, paid the collectors of Nottoway Parish 216 pounds of tobacco, the sheriff 72 pounds of tobacco, and Thomas Moore 500 pounds of tobacco. There was still a hogshead of tobacco on hand that was worth over £10 in the £1,295 estate.

While the Anglican faith was the acknowledged “state” religion of the colony and all were required to contribute funds for the upkeep of the churches and to pay for its ministers, the Anglican Faith was not the only religious choice for those coming into Southampton County. Quakers are known to have settled in Southampton County in the middle of the eighteenth century. They centered themselves around the Sedly area and established a congregation at Black Creek in the 1760s. In the next decade, Baptists were recorded as meeting at Mill Swamp and at South Quay (Parrimore 1978: 32)

The early court documents at the county level and at the colony level contain numerous requests for roads to connect villages and scattered settlements in Southampton County. Almost all of the road petitions refer to a property owner’s house. On occasion, they refer to a tavern or to some other prominent point.

The growth of the county continued at a pace that would cause most of the best lands to be occupied within a decade of the founding of the county. The French and Indian War, which began in 1752, does not appear to have had a significant impact on the county’s growth or history. The Indian tribes that remained in Southampton County were small and friendly to the English and the colonists.

The period after the end of the French and Indian War and the beginning of the American Revolution was marked by continued growth in Southampton County. County records continue to show that land is surveyed for new settlers or that the larger properties were slowly reduced to permit newcomers to have their own farms.

Although there were large landed plantations in Southampton, most of the farmers and settlers who came into Southampton County were engaged in grain farming and raising cattle and hogs. They established small family-operated farms. While some of these small farmers owned or used slaves, the owner and his family did most of the work. The gristmills that were distributed along the streams of the county were established to mill grain for local farmers for market and home consumption. While the main focus was on grain crops, orchards, and cattle and hog production, most of these small farmers also raised tobacco because it represented a cash crop.

As the 1770s brought increased difficulties between the American Colonies and Great Britain, little of the politics had a direct impact on life in Southampton County. Tobacco inspection laws and restrictions on domestic manufacturers were less significant where the primary concern was ensuring that crops were planted where domestic manufacturing was not a viable option for those who lived in the Southside. The tax policies and the control of the Anglican Church were a local issue. The Baptist meetings were beginning to challenge the Anglican Church for religious control in Southampton County.

When actual war and rebellion occurred in 1775, Virginia supported and was a mainstay of the revolutionary effort. Virginia contributed numerous well-known military leaders in addition to George Washington. Virginia

also led the political aspects of the rebellion through the contributions of individuals such as Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry. Also, Virginia contributed troops, equipment and ships for both the Continental Army and the Navy. They maintained an active militia force within its bounds that was used for many of the campaigns in the southern states toward the end of the War. One direct impact of the Revolutionary War was that Virginia and North Carolina cooperated in building a small fleet of shallow-draft vessels that could be used to patrol the Albemarle Sound and the navigable rivers of the two states that flowed into the Sound. While often overlooked because of the significant size of the Chesapeake Bay and the engagements along the New York and New England coasts, the Albemarle Sound was an important shipping region for the naval stores that it produced and for the backcountry route that it provided to the interior of North Carolina and Virginia. British ships could and did patrol the Sound and were able to destroy numerous ships found in the unprotected waters. The two states ordered that small galleys be constructed at South Quay. These vessels were 75 feet long and powered by both sail and oars. Construction on the two ships built for the Virginia/North Carolina navies, the Caswell and the General Washington, commenced in 1777 and 1778. Their construction took a long time, and they did not participate in the war effort to any great extent.

Beyond troops and supplies, Southampton County was affected little by the Revolutionary War, unlike those who lived in the Tidewater Region. The county's farmers lost their English markets and their Scottish lenders and factors. But they also, at least momentarily, lost their debts to those firms as well.

The Revolutionary War finally came to Southampton County in 1781. From the beginning of the War in 1775 in New England and through the campaigns of the Mid-Atlantic States, the American Army had few victories and bright moments to encourage the troops to maintain the battle against the British. News of the French alliance in 1780 made the war effort somewhat more successful because it forced the British to protect themselves from French attacks. The alliance also made it easier for the American troops to obtain supplies and equipment. They also were better trained and experienced soldiers after the first years of battle.

The impact of training and supplies was most obvious in the southern campaigns of the last year of the war and directly led to the victory of the American forces over the British at Yorktown. The events that lead up to that final victory began on January 17, 1781 with a decisive victory over the British at Cowpens in North Carolina. After a short period of maneuvering by both armies, the American Army retreated into Virginia in a movement that is celebrated as the "March to the Dan," which was an effort to cross the Dan River in Halifax County and to draw the British Army away from its supply lines and reinforcements. The organized and orderly American retreat in February 1781 was very successful in that it drew the British Army far inland. The armies rested for a short period then continued their maneuvering and engagements. The American Army was defeated in March 1781 at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. This was followed by a series of battles throughout the Carolinas that resulted in the British Army making its way to Yorktown in Virginia where the army was besieged and trapped until its surrender in October of 1781 (Ward 1952: 770 - 776). While the British and American Armies were engaged in their fighting, units of the British Army were dispatched to raid a variety of American communities and to destroy war-related supplies and equipment. As a result of this campaign, British troops under the command of Colonel Banastre Tarleton occupied South Quay and destroyed the buildings and shipyard on the Blackwater River. The buildings at the village were rebuilt but South Quay did not long remain an important shipping port for the region (Parramore 1978: 44- 45).

At the end of the Revolutionary War, the farmers and residents of Southampton County continued to improve their properties and to develop the agricultural and forest economy of the county. Farming remained the principal occupation with the production of beef and hogs as the principal activity. The reliance of the farmers on these two animals would have required growing grain crops for feed as well as the use of natural and planted pasture areas. Some tobacco and cotton was grown for commercial profit. The trees of the region were used as a source for lumber for shipbuilding and as a source for pitch and tar, which were used in naval construction and other types of construction as a preservative. The 1782 tax lists required by the State for each county show that

there were 1,070 taxpayers. In general, these were white males who had land or some other form of property. The tax list also recorded that there were 5,222 slaves in Southampton County.

2.6 *Early National Period (1789-1830)*

The last decade of the eighteenth century found Southampton county well on its way to becoming a mature, well-settled community. The basis for the economy of the county was grain, some tobacco, and timber-related products. While Southampton County was a Virginia county, in some respects, its trade network led the residents there to have more in common with the North Carolina counties that were part of the Albemarle Sound drainage. Most of the crops and products would continue to be floated down the rivers in the County to the Sound for shipment to a wider Atlantic market.

One of the provisions of the new United States Constitution, which had been adopted in 1787 was to require that a census be taken every ten years. This important work was intended to determine the number of representatives in the House of Representatives and to allocate funds from the federal treasury to the states based on population. During most of the early years, little money flowed to the federal government and few internal improvements were made. The federal government did pay for a lighthouse to be erected at Old Point Comfort in Hampton and at Cape Henry to mark the entrances to the Chesapeake Bay and it did provide customs houses for each district in the United States. But the federal government did not build roads. It did provide some money for canals and later for railroads but those types of improvements were left to private enterprise or to state and local governments to initiate. As a result, Southampton County was left to provide for itself with roads authorized in earlier years and with highway improvements authorized by the state government in Richmond. A main road did connect Southampton County with Suffolk and Norfolk to the east and to the counties to the west along the Virginia/North Carolina border. However, the important ferry landings and river ports along the Blackwater River, the Nottoway River, and the Meherrin River were left to private property owners and to local businesses.

However, the U.S. Census does provide a significant measure of assessing the health and vitality of the various localities in Virginia. The 1790 Census found that Southampton County was one of the larger counties in Virginia with total population of 12,864. Of that number, 5,993 were slaves. The Census of 1800 recorded an increase population figures a total population of 13,925. The slave population stood at 6,625 individuals. By the Census of 1810, the total population of Southampton County had decreased slightly to total of 13,497, with 6,406 of those being slaves. The population rose again by 1820 when the Census recorded a total of 14,170. Contained within that number were 6,737 slaves and 1,306 African American freedmen. In 1830, the Census found that the population had continued to increase with a total population of 16,074. Of that number, 8,053 were slaves and 697 were African American freedmen.

Except for the Census taken in 1810, over the period from 1790 to 1830, Southampton County gained both whites and slaves for its population. The increase is an interesting trend in that it is mostly opposite of the direction of the population figures for the Tidewater counties of Virginia. During this period, many of the older counties and regions along the Atlantic coast lost population as new lands were opened in the western sections of each of the older states and as new states such as Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee were formed and admitted into the Union. The availability of fresh land for a modest price siphoned off many tenant farmers in the older communities. It also attracted new immigrants to the country, who headed west rather than try to purchase farm land that was already developed and comparatively expensive.

A second reason for the general downturn in the Atlantic coast population can be tied to the fertility of the soil. Tobacco is a labor intensive crop to grow, and it requires a great deal from the soil for nutrients. Unlike many other Tidewater and Southside counties, farmers in Southampton County had been mostly grain and wheat farmers. They also relied on hog production and on timber-product harvesting for an income. The farmers of

Southampton County had yet another source of revenue that was not shared in by the counties closer to the James River and the Chesapeake Bay. An important component of every farm was an orchard. In general, these orchards were for home consumption but in Southampton County they were used to produce apple and peach brandy. One report notes that brandy was the principal source of revenue for county residents (Parramore 1978: 51).

In spite of this enterprise, their basic agricultural practices continued to follow the common practice of the time and eventually these practices resulted in depleting the soil of its ability to produce high or even modest yields of almost any crop. Most of the farmers of the region 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. In addition, they made no effort to improve the soil with fertilizer. Although it was recognized 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). Another cash crop for the farmers of Southampton County was cotton. Because of its orientation toward North Carolina and because of the soils found there, cotton was a good crop for the county's farmers. The southern counties west of the Blackwater River comprised the principal Virginia cotton belt during the early nineteenth century. Most of the cotton was grown after the end of the War of 1812 and its production moved to its northern climatic limits because of the high price that it demanded in the European market. The cotton from this region of Virginia and the neighboring counties of North Carolina was carefully prepared by the planters and their slaves. In recognition of this extra effort, cotton from the region was classed in a separate market by the English buyers and given a generally higher price than cotton from the lower South (Gray 1958: 889). The 1830 Census found a dramatic increase in the number of slaves over the 1820 Census and it should be expected that a significant number of these new slaves were being used in cotton production. Like tobacco, cotton was a very labor-intensive crop that required constant care and hand harvesting.

Three statewide issues occupied a great deal of the time of Virginians, all of which would have a great impact on Virginia and on the nation. The first was slavery. There were periodic requests in the General Assembly to abolish slavery or to develop a mechanism that would reduce the State's farmers and planters on slavery. 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, one that hit home directly was a concern with slave revolts. There had been periodic revolts of slaves throughout the South and the slave-holding states of the Caribbean for many years. For the most part, those in the Southern states were small and limited to localized areas. In 1799, slave dealers were taking four slaves to Georgia from Southampton County when the slaves overpowered the two dealers and murdered them. The slaves were soon caught and three of them were hung. This was harsh punishment because it meant a loss of property on the part of the white owner (Parramore 1978: 65).

Two years later in 1801, an extensive uprising planned by two slaves called for murder of the white residents of Richmond and for the capture of arms and supplies in that city. Gabriel's Insurrection was short lived and stopped almost before it started but it frightened many in the South. Although only a few of the ringleaders were hung, the uprising would harden the attitudes of the state's leaders, and harsh and more restrictive laws were passed to control both slaves and African American freedmen. Even with the example of the failure of Gabriel's Insurrection, slave revolts continued and another one took place the following year in Norfolk (Dabney 1971:

184). That same year and into the next, several other local revolts by slaves against their masters were either accomplished or discovered in and around Southampton County (Parramore 1978: 66 -67).

The second issue complicating the early years of the new nation was the relationship between the United States and Great Britain and France. Tensions between the United States of America and Great Britain had never truly been resolved by the American Revolution and by the resumption of commercial activity between the two countries. Great Britain tried on several occasions to halt American trade with the West Indies and with the remaining British Colonies. Great Britain also tried to interfere with American trade with Europe. Among its tactics of fear and intimidation was 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 Southampton 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 and Southside 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 *Chesapeake* off Cape Henry. 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 forbid the export of American goods and prevented the importation of a number of listed British goods and manufactures. Jefferson hoped that the embargo would boost American manufacturers and farmers, but it was a failure. It was soon repealed but not before the economic damage had been done to the region's farmers and manufacturers (Dabney 1971:200).

When the United States finally was pulled into the Napoleonic Wars as our War of 1812, the Albemarle Sound became a prime target for British naval and land forces. In an effort to disrupt shipping, British naval forces blockaded much of the Atlantic Coast line. This made it difficult to ship goods and foodstuff up and down the Atlantic Coast and it made the inland waterways of the Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, and the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina important supply routes for both former coastal shipping and for inland trade. Because of the blockade of the Albemarle Sound outlets, the trade of Southampton County farmers was shifted inland and became highly dependent on local goods and manufacturing.

The third issue that caused a great deal of difficulty for Virginians was internal improvements. Unlike many other states, Virginia lagged behind in using public money to pay for improvements. As a result, there were no public highways in the Commonwealth. Where other states were building canals and improving harbors, Virginia only came lately into the road and canal business. Even then efforts to build canals tended to be completed and expensive. When finally constructed, they tended to be operational for only a few years before the first of the railroads began to operate, causing the canals to become redundant. Because of the poor condition of the rivers that flowed through Southampton County, the farmers there were forced to pay a higher freight bill than those in counties with a better water connection. The cost was sufficiently high that a group of farmers and businessmen in the both Virginia and North Carolina organized to improve water navigation. Efforts were made at the end of the eighteenth century to build a canal through the Great Dismal Swamp, which was partly in Southampton County. Other groups tried to improve the outlets to the sea from the Albemarle Sound. Locally, the Meherrin River Navigation Company was organized in 1811 to clear that river from Murfreesboro into Virginia. Several years later, a private businessman, Clements Rochelle, petitioned the Virginia General Assembly for permission to lay out a town along the Nottoway River. The town was to be called Monroe. This town survived for only a few years but it did have a post office and was the subject of at least one petition for an increase in the town's boundaries. However, by 1824, the land within the town was owned by a gentleman from Massachusetts, perhaps a creditor who foreclosed on the loan (Parramore 1978: 54- 55).

The Southampton landscape in the years from 1790 to 1830 appears to have been different from the pattern that developed in the older counties to the north and east. While there were large landholdings in Southampton County, most of the land was owned by mid-level farmers and planters. Those that had slaves, tended to have a few that were directly overseen by an owner rather than an overseer or farm manager. Except for the village of Jerusalem (Courtland), most of the residents of Southampton lived on their farms. The 1820 Census was the first that had asked for occupation. The overwhelming majority of those who worked in Southampton County were farmers. There were only twenty-four individuals who listed their trade as commerce and only 183 who listed themselves in the manufacturing trades. On the later, this would include blacksmiths and other skilled craftsmen such as potters, masons, boat builders, and coopers. The small number of craftsmen would indicate that there was not an industrial base in the county and that the manufacturing which was undertaken was to provide for the local needs and not a regional or national market.

In 1791, the county felt there was the need for a town. An act was passed that established the town of Jerusalem on 10 acres of land adjoining the courthouse. Nearly 100 years later, Jerusalem was incorporated as the present town of Courtland in 1888 (Historical Records Survey WPA 1940:7).

2.7 Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

In 1830 the population of Southampton County was almost evenly split between whites and African American slaves and freemen. By 1840 there were 6,171 whites (a decline from 1830) and 8,354 African Americans. The 1850 census saw a further decline in the white population: 5,940 as compared to 7,581 African Americans. By 1860 the white population had decreased by 3,000 from 1830, to about 5,713 whites while the black population was fairly consistent, with 7,202 African Americans, of which 5,408 were slaves. About 85 percent of the population made a living from farming (Kanak 1991:3). In 1860 there were 1,203 white families and 363 free black families that lived in the same number of dwellings. Most of the non-slave holding farmers lived on small farms of 200 acres or less, while about ten percent of the white population lived on estates larger than 500 acres. There were tenant farmers that lived on the edge of the larger estates. The town of Jerusalem in 1836 had about 25 dwelling houses, four stores, a saddlery, a carriage maker, two hotels, a Masonic hall and two houses of private entertainment (Kanak 1991:4). Jerusalem had a population of 175, four of whom were lawyers and four of whom were doctors. During this period railroad depots were established on two railroads in the county. Depots on the Seaboard and Roanoke Railway included Franklin, Murphy's, Newsoms, Boykins, Handsome, and Branchville (by 1837). Ivor was established as a depot on the Norfolk and Petersburg railway by 1858. Other settlements and crossroad communities present during this period include Barn Tavern, Berlin, Bethlehem Crossroads, Cross Keys, Drewryville, South Quay and Vicksville (Kanak 1991:5). By 1850 there were 20 public schools with 288 pupils enrolled, plus five academies operating in the county (Babb 1965:33).

As noted above, agriculture was the principal occupation of the land holding population. Diversified farming had become established in the county by the 1830s. Farmers with land holdings greater than 500 acres usually had more than twenty slaves and were designated as "planters" by the census takers (Kanak 1991:30). There were about eighty planters in Southampton County in 1860. Some planters, such as Ansalam B. Urquhart had holdings greater than 5,000 acres, which included four or five large estates. Urquhart owned seventy-eight slaves in 1860. Produce from his plantations in 1860 included: 7,500 bushels of corn; 2,500 bushels of peas and beans; 2,500 bushels of sweet potatoes; 200 bushels of Irish potatoes; 1,500 bushels of oats; eighty tons of hay; 200 pounds of butter; 300 pounds of wool and 25 400-pound bales of ginned cotton (Kanak 1991:31). Urquhart also has one of the largest orchards in the county with 1,000 acre of planted fruit trees (apples, peaches and pears). Livestock included horses, oxen, cattle, swine and sheep. Only 971 pounds of tobacco were produced in Southampton County in 1850, as opposed to 869 bales of cotton (Historical Records Survey, WPA 1940:10).

Smaller landholders were producing similar agricultural products. About 300 of the 550 farmers with fewer than 200 acres had slaves. Most of these slaveholders had fewer than ten slaves. On the lowest end of the landholding scale were small farmers with fifty acres or less who owned few, if any, slaves. Most of these small landowners would have been subsistence farmers, who grew just enough corn and hay to feed the livestock and perhaps sell the excess. Livestock usually included a horse, a milk cow or two, and a number of swine (Kanak 1991: 38).

Near the beginning of this period, unrest in the slave community brought about one of the bloodiest events in the history of the county. On August 21, 1831, a Southampton County slave and preacher named Nat Turner initiated a slave revolt, believing that the only method for achieving liberation was through open rebellion. Turner and his disciples (numbering up to sixty men), began at the Travis plantation where Turner lived, and proceeded across the county, killing at least fifty-seven white men, women and children over a period of three days. The route of Turner's revolt is well known and documented and included at least seventeen different plantations. Most of the slaves involved in the revolt were captured by the Southampton County militia by the end of August. Turner eluded capture until October 30, when he was found in a pit under a fallen tree near the Travis plantation. The slaves directly involved in the uprising were executed, others were sold out of the county, and many innocent blacks were killed through fear and revenge. Nat Turner was tried and hanged in Courtland. The *Confessions of Nat Turner*, published by Thomas Gray, a Southampton lawyer in 1831 was widely circulated and remains one of the primary documents of narrative by a slave commonly studied. Most significantly, the insurrection was a catalyst for the establishment of strict laws restricting the freedoms and rights of both free and enslaved African Americans across the South.

Southampton County had one of the earliest railroads with the establishment of the Portsmouth and Roanoke line, which was in operation as early as 1834. It showcased the first steam locomotive- a five-ton specimen which was named the "John Barrett" (McKnight 1959:292). In May 1835 agricultural products were being shipped. Some sixty or seventy bales of cotton had been shipped by Mr. Newsom and Mr. Vaughn and had reached Norfolk and been sold (McKnight 1959:291). By July 1835 the railroad had reached the Nottaway River and excursion trains were being run to this region. That point was known as Murfee's Depot. A report by a passenger on one of these excursions states that there was not much diversity of scene- no hamlets, villas, churches, lawns, or other materials for a picturesque landscape" (Ibid. 1959:292). The railroad, which had a wreck with several fatalities in 1837, was in debt and became bankrupt in 1843. It was re-incorporated as the Seaboard and Roanoke (S&R) in 1846. Franklin, on the Blackwater River, was at least a village by 1838, and was the inland port in the later nineteenth century for steamboats that plied the Blackwater River and Albemarle Sound to Edenton, NC. Other transportation facilities included the completion of the Jerusalem-to-Petersburg plank toll road in 1853. This route soon suffered maintenance problems with rotting boards and insufficient tolls.

There were several surveys made on the Nottaway River in the 1830s, with a view toward making it navigable. It was not until 1853 that the Virginia Assembly gave the Nottaway Steam Navigation Company the exclusive right to navigate the Nottaway River (with steam vessels) above Monroe for a period of 25 years as long as that company maintained the river for navigation. Eventually there was a water route as far upstream as the Forks of the Nottaway. In 1860, S&R freights loaded 88,000 feet of lumber; 68,000 staves, and 1,726 pounds of bacon at the Nottaway River Bridge (Kanak 1991:92). The S&R railroad also moved a large amount of goods from the Branchville vicinity in 1860: 145,788 feet of lumber; 24,000 staves; 5,955 pounds of bacon; 316 bales of cotton; 35 kegs of lard; 72 bushels of grain and 1,942 bushels of peas – all going to Portsmouth.

Manufacturing in Southampton County during this period was limited to coach making, metalworking, leatherworking and milling (Kanak 1991:54). Coach shops made and repaired carriages, sullies, wagons, and carts, and some had associated blacksmith and wheelwright shops. The leatherwork industry included cobblers who made boots, shoes, and other leather products. There was also a saddle-making and harness shop. There were a few small tanneries to support these businesses. Grist and sawmills handled the grain and forest products.

There were a number of skilled artisans in the county, as well as merchants, professionals (doctors, lawyers) and those who provided everyday services: cooks, carpenters, tailors, and so forth.

2.8 Civil War (1861-1865)

The Civil War brought disruption, some fighting, and ultimately human despair that resulted from the taking of crops and livestock to support the southern army. Although Southampton County was not a prime target for the Union Army, there were occasions when Union gunboats broke through the Blackwater River to approach the Franklin area. When three Union gunboats attempted to support a Federal force approaching the Franklin fort from Suffolk to burn the Franklin railroad bridge in 1862, they were attacked by defenders at Crumpler's Bluff, a promontory on the west side of the Blackwater River, south of Franklin. The river force made its way past the defenders only to be blocked by felled trees in the river. The Union force from Suffolk was turned back by Confederate skirmishers. Later the same year, Confederate General Longstreet brought a large force of 35,000 to Southampton, which he used as a base for his advance on Suffolk. The objective, according to Thomas Parramore in his history of Southampton County, (1978:167), was a large foraging expedition to confiscate all of the food and goods from the population of Gates, Nansemond and Chowan Counties for the use of the Confederate Army. Most foodstuffs and crops were destroyed in Southampton.

Southampton County was part of the Confederate lifeline, with food and materials brought by small boats up the Chowan, Blackwater and Nottaway Rivers to the railroads in Southampton. In 1865, the Federals dispatched cavalry to Murfee and Weldon, North Carolina, and closed down the contraband supply line.

Two Southampton natives rose to prominence during the Civil War. One was the Union General George H. Thomas, a hero of the Mexican War who was born at Newsom and was called the "Rock of Chickamauga." The other was the Confederate General William Mahone, who later became a U.S. senator and railroad magnate. A third prominent Southampton native of this period was Captain James H. Rochelle, who served aboard the ironclad *Virginia* during the Hampton Roads battle with the *Monitor*.

The Norfolk and Petersburg Railway, completed by Mahone before the Civil War, remained in continuous operation except for a period in 1863 when Longstreet retreated from Suffolk along this route and damaged the section east of Ivor (Babb 1965:53). The name Ivor seems to have been provided by Mahone's wife, who was inspired by the novels of Sir Walter Scott. Ivor is a variation on Mac-Ivor, a family in his novel *Waverley*.

2.9 Reconstruction (1865-1880)

Reconstruction in Southampton County brought stability and progress at a faster pace than some neighboring areas (McKnight 1959:295). The most marked difference in post-bellum Southampton County was the loss of free agricultural labor. Many former slaves continued to work on farms, some as tenants, others as landowners. However, former slaves did have other opportunities, as the establishment of public education, the beginnings of industry, and the growth of urbanism came to the county for the first time.

In 1872, the county began its first comprehensive school system (Balfour 1989:45) and free public schools, many one-room in size, were built throughout the county. Private seminaries and academies were also established during the Reconstruction Period.

The railroad continued to be a significant economic factor in the county. The Norfolk and Petersburg railroad, which was operating in the northern part of the county by 1858, merged with the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad and the South Side Railroad in 1870, to become the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. The great distances reached by this railway conglomerate, which would eventually become the Norfolk and Western (McKnight 1959:294), meant that a wider market was available for the more specialized Southampton County

goods.

Peanuts appear to have been introduced into the area in the 1870s. Associated small businesses flourished, with the establishment of peanut wholesalers like the Pretlow, Franklin and Hancock peanut companies. The Pretlow Peanut Company of Franklin had one of the first peanut checking plants in the area. This plant provided non-farming jobs, contributing to the growth of Franklin, which incorporated in 1876. (It became an independent city in 1961.) By 1881, a fire began on the east side of the railroad station in Franklin, consuming forty-three buildings in the town. As a result, all of the buildings that were rebuilt on Main Street were required to be of brick construction (Southampton County 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee 1999:31). This would have resulted in the need for skilled non-agricultural labor in the form of masons.

Peanuts were not added as an agricultural commodity in the census until 1890, but they became an important cash crop sometime after 1870. The 1880 census shows that in Southampton County only 101 acres of land was planted with wheat, while 36,012 acres were planted with corn; 11,500 acres of cotton; 628 of sweet potatoes, and 5,478 acres were for cattle grazing. The county led Virginia with the production of cotton, having raised 5,200 bales (Historical Records Survey, WPA 1940:11). No figures for peanuts were provided, but by 1890, 16,338 acres were producing 329,554 bushels.

The general farm statistics of the 1880 census included 1,648 farms, most of which were between 100 to 500 acres in size. The census reported that approximately 906 of the farms were cultivated by their owners. Around 337 farms were rented for cash and most of these ranged from 20 to 50 acres in size. There were 405 farms rented on the shares, most between 100 and 500 acres in extent. The roles of former slaves in this agricultural landscape are probably concentrated in the rented and share cropping columns, but it is recorded that one former slave, Peter Cobb, purchased a farm of 116 acres in 1874, was a successful farmer and left a good estate when he died in 1912 (Balfour 1989:45).

2.10 Growth (1880-1900)

A good part of the growth of commerce in the area was a result of the construction of the Atlantic and Danville Railroad in 1888, which was leased for a period of 50 years, commencing in 1899, to the Norfolk and Western Railway. Capron (originally called Cairo), Adams Grove and Drewryville had depots on what is now the Norfolk and Southern Railway. Courtland, also on this line, had its real first real growth subsequent to the town's establishment in 1791 (Southampton County 250th Anniversary Celebration 1999: 15-16). Capron had a post office under the name of Cairo in 1889 and the Atlantic and Danville Railroad depot at that location was called Princeton in honor of Judge Prince of Courtland, who was on the railroad board. Capron had a sawmill and factory until 1927. Another railway was chartered in 1886 to run between Scotland in Surry County, on the James River, and the Nottaway River in Southampton County. This railway, known as the S.S.S. Railway, commenced construction by 1890. The towns that had earlier become established along the railway line located in the southern part of the county (Franklin, Handsome, Newsom, Boykins, and Branchville) were also growing during the latter part of the nineteenth century, with the building of new dwellings and commercial buildings.

By 1885, slightly over fifty percent of the school-aged population had been enrolled in public schools and seventy-five teachers were being employed in the county. Practically all of the schools were one-room buildings. By 1900 there were 109 schools with 4,605 students enrolled (Babb 1965:32).

As noted above, peanuts had become a very important agricultural product by 1890. In 1900, the number of acres devoted to peanut production had nearly doubled to 31,781 acres with a yield of 1,087,529 bushels. In comparison, 39,400 acres were planted for corn; 1,050 acres planted for sweet potatoes, producing 122,380 bushels; 3,705 acres of cotton were planted, producing 2,079 bales. Clover and grasses were also accounted for in the census inventory. Peanuts, like tobacco before it, required some degree of drying, but unlike tobacco,

which was dried in barns, peanuts were dried in the field. Harvested peanuts were required to be air-dried in shocks before they were sent to the peanut companies. Industrial peanut cleaning and storage facilities were established in several parts of the county when a charter was granted to the Farmers Alliance Peanut Cleaning and Storage Company in 1889. The Ivor Alliance Cooperative Association was formed the following year to peanut milling. Birdsong Storage Company set up its first peanut milling plant at Courtland somewhat later.

A second growing industry in the county was lumber. In 1877, Paul Douglas Camp of Franklin established the P.D. Camp and Company and acquired the Franklin sawmill of John Frisbee and the steam sawmill of Edward Hedley in Southampton County. In 1886, Camp purchased Johnson Neely's lumber mill in Southampton County. The formal corporation of Camp Manufacturing Company was in 1887 with Paul as President and two of his brothers as officers. The location of Franklin was beneficial to this enterprise as the Blackwater River was navigable to this location and because the town was also accessible by train. The post-war period saw a rise in demand for lumber, and the Southampton region was rich in this resource. The Camp Manufacturing Company was one of the first to purchase land as well as timber rights, enabling them to practice reforestation, resulting in a sustained yield of timber and the company eventually became one of the largest lumber manufacturing companies on the East Coast.

2.11 Modern Southampton County (1900-1950)

Four railroad lines- the Seaboard Air Line, the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the Atlantic and Danville; and the Virginia (completed 1909) were serving Southampton County in 1957 (McKnight 1959:296). New communities took shape along the new Virginia line, including Joyner, Sebrell (previously known as Barn Tavern and Oak Grove), Sedley (previously Aidyl), and Burdett. This rail line was abandoned in the year 2000.

Sedley had two railroad stations and two railroads, a bank, a school, several stores, three churches and a post office. In 1886 another small railroad was chartered to operate from Scotland on the James River to the Nottaway River by the way of Dendron, Wakefield, Green Level, Manry, Dory, and Vicksville, and later to Sedley, where it terminated in 1907. The latter railway was abandoned in 1927. Its primary function was to haul logs and lumber, and many Surry lumber company officials lived in Sedley. The railroad was known as the S.S.S. Railroad (Babb 1965:10-11, 45-46). Although Sedley now has no railways, the village still has an excellent sample of turn-of-the-century architecture. Burdette, which is located on the Blackwater River, became a boomtown, with lots sold to others who never moved to Burdette. It had several stores, a doctor, post office, railway station and Baptist Church. The Hahn manufacturing Company operated a box and basket factory at that location until 1929, when it moved to Franklin (Babb 1965:47). There were about 30 families, a commissary store, freight office, and school at Vicksville in the early twentieth century. When the railroad abandoned its line, the community also was abandoned. Dory was a small village at the end of the line on the S.S.S. Railroad. Originally called "Little Boston" in 1890, it had two stores, two schools, and a railroad station with a passenger and freight office in 1900. Local farms used this railroad depot as a shipping point to send produce to Wakefield and other points (Babb 1965:45). Joyner was another community of this generation. A few turn-of-the-century dwellings, an old store and some railway related warehouse structures remain.

By 1920 there were ninety-five public schools in the county. Schools had gone from one-room to two-room to four. Consolidation reduced the number to seventy-four. In 1965 there was one white and one black school in each district, with one white and one black high school in the county. By the 1970s, the schools were no longer segregated by race.

Agriculture was and is still the primary economic activity in the county. There were 3,212 farms in Southampton County in 1930, of which 1,303 that were owned by whites totaled 141,490 acres, while the 1,909 farms owned by African Americans contained a total of 125,082 acres of land. Tenants were farming 59,396 acres in 1929, while only 5,501 acres were purchased (Historic Records Survey WPA 1940: 12). The largest number of farms

averaged twenty to forty-nine acres with 34,717 acres and they were farms numbered 1,073. Cattle being produced in 1930 numbered 4,372. There were 41,711 acres in cultivation. Corn was grown on 2,905 farms. Cotton was not an important Southampton County crop after 1935. The boll weevil and the high cost and scarcity of labor were factors in abandoning it as a crop (Babb 1965:43). In 1935, there were 2,987 farms in the county with a total acreage of 266, 057. Value of land and buildings indicates that white owners had property worth \$2,330, 415 while African American had property valued at \$563,195. The peanut industry was very important, with 2,127,015 bushels produced in 1934 (Historic Records Survey WPA 1940:12). Subsequent to 1960, peanut harvesting went from field drying in shocks to mechanization with a picker. By 1950, the county had only 2,175 farms, some with large acreages (McKnight 1959:298). Hog production is still an important animal industry.

The Parker Buggy Company was established at Franklin in 1903 and offered a line of light, inexpensive vehicles (Parramore 1978:199). Merchants at Boykins (O.W. Gray and Brother) sold these rigs but complained about freight charges from Franklin. Gray and other influential residents in the town of Boykins worked out an agreement with Hines Buggy Company of Murfreesboro to give the latter company money to build on a lot next to the railroad. There was a four-story brick factory in Boykins by 1911, producing 150 buggies a month.

Lumber and paper manufacturing are the other major industries. In 1936, the Camp Manufacturing Company initiated its pulp and paper operations at a location adjoining Franklin, employing 2,000 persons. In 1938, the Chesapeake-Camp Corporation (formed in 1936) had a capacity of 150 tons of pulp and paper. New machines were added at both the paper and lumber branches, until their 1955 output had been built up to 100,000 feet of lumber and 350 tons of brown and white paper per day. Much of the industry is centered in the vicinity of what is now the City of Franklin. Industries included other paper manufacturing companies, basket manufacturing, the Hercules Powder Company, concrete and pallet companies and agricultural processing plants

Two world wars and the Great Depression were the major national events that worked to bring about change during this period. In 1917, Company I of the Fourth Virginia was sent to Newport News for active duty. A small number of local soldiers lost their lives in World War I and the surviving troops returned to Southampton in June 1919. In the meantime Southampton County had its first experience with a large military truck convoys and low-flying Curtis biplanes (Parramore 1978:203).

Route 460, the highway from Petersburg to Suffolk, was completed in 1930. This straight, hard surfaced road was a positive influence in the development of rural southside Virginia. This highway runs parallel to the Norfolk and Western Railroad, which itself was perfectly straight for fifty-one miles (Babb 1965:11).

As with many Hampton Roads communities, an increasing number of local people were employed in defense and the shipbuilding industry at the Norfolk Navy Yard, the Newport News Shipbuilding and other defense industries (Babb 1965:58). Workers from Southampton County were also employed at the pork packing plants in Smithfield, as well as at Ivor, Beales, Vicksville, and the paper mill at Franklin.

3.0 REPRESENTATIVE BUILDING TYPES OF SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

3.1 Introduction

The representative building types of Southampton County are addressed within the historic themes that have been discussed in the above context. There were eighteen historic themes that have been defined by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Not all of them apply to the architectural resources of Southampton County. Twelve of the themes were considered suitable for the county and one additional theme relating to towns, communities, and ethnic neighborhoods was proposed as a theme for the county.

The architecture of the early years in Southampton County has not survived to the present. It is reported by some that the Clements Plantation might have been constructed about 1710. It is a one and one-half story, brick dwelling (Balfour 1989: 17). While this might be considered early for a brick building to have been constructed in an area that was remote and out-of-bounds for settlement at the time, there does always exist the potential for such a building to have a construction date in the early eighteenth century.

3.2 Domestic/Residential Buildings

The domestic theme relates broadly to the human need for shelter, a home place, and community dwellings and can apply to both standing structures and archeological sites. Domestic property types include single dwellings such as a residence, row house, mansion, or farmstead or multiple dwellings such as a duplex, apartment building, rock shelter or cave. The theme also applies to secondary domestic structures such as a dairy, smokehouse, storage shed, kitchen, garage or other dependency and structures for hire, such as an inn, hotel, or motel; or institutional housing such as a military quarter, staff housing, a poor house or orphanage; or campsites which might be visible above ground, such as a fishing or forestry camp, or an archeological site such as a village, temporary camp or base camp.

Places of residence are the most numerous of the building types identified in the course of the Southampton County survey. This section describes residential architecture according to VDHR chronological historic periods. Like churches, early dwellings in Southampton County shared a common reliance on traditional forms and materials. For the more affluent, style became a noticeable feature. In Southampton County, residences such as large plantations had their main residence or mansion and perhaps a residence for an overseer and several other buildings that housed slaves. Some of the slave quarters many have housed numerous individuals or may have been little more than crude shacks, and although none were observed in the present survey, some plantations in Virginia and Maryland actually had individual brick quarters and duplex brick quarters for their slaves, indicating a change in attitude toward slave housing (Loth 1995:29; Traver 1987:11-12).

Multiple dwellings such as apartment building, which may be prevalent in urbanized areas near and within large cities such as Richmond and Norfolk, were not found in Southampton County.

Following the Civil War and sometimes earlier, style often dictated plan. On a county-wide level, the style in vogue at the time of construction is easily recognizable on residences built during the late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries. The most prevalent styles found in Southampton County are the Queen Anne, the American four-square, the Colonial Revival, and the bungalow and its Craftsman variations.

Residences proposed for family life range from rectangular buildings to irregular plans, such as the Queen Anne and other high Victorian styles. The latter plans provide spaces that break the confines of the traditional box. Plans before 1840 relate to various arrangements of spaces into room/passage relationships. Other plans result from adding sections to the original forms. Choice as to plan and form, and subsequent cumulative patterns are important factors as well. Although style becomes a significant factor in the growing towns of Southampton

County, most houses are designed as living space. Some rural farmhouses show evidence of adapting the Victorian styles that are more popular in the towns, but more farmhouses seem to retain the rectangular plans, especially the I-house form.

The majority of the first generation buildings erected in Southampton County would most likely have resembled the post-in-ground housing constructed in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in the other Tidewater counties of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. These buildings had no permanent foundation and were supported by posts set into holes in the ground (Reinhart 1987). This form of dwelling would have a life expectancy of about twenty or thirty years before it would have to be replaced or structurally rebuilt. No examples of a structure of this type was identified in the survey because none have survived to the present. The evidence for this type of structure is present in archeological contexts only. An alternative to the post-in-ground building would have been a braced-frame structure that would have been set on wood or stone piers. This would have been slightly more permanent and is a common foundation system used in Southampton County for agricultural buildings and for some dwellings that were constructed in the nineteenth century.

English colonial house forms appeared on the Tidewater Virginia landscape in the European Settlement period (1607-1750). Clements (087-0011), located east of Ivor on the Blackwater River, is supposed to be the earliest surviving structure from the colonial period (Figure 3.1). It was built sometime after 1710, and takes its plan from the colonial post-medieval English style brick houses constructed in the Tidewater area, such as the Keeling and Thoroughgood houses of Virginia Beach and the Lee House in York County. It has massive brick walls with gabled dormer windows facing the river, large shouldered brick chimneys on the gable ends, and plaster walls (Babb 1965:24). It is a story and a half, with a perpendicular wing on one end, on the side of the building that would probably have been the rear (not facing the river). Ancillary structures and plantings were removed in the 1930s, including old slave houses, a smokehouse, a detached kitchen and barns, as well as stately old oak and beech trees. It presently sits quite barren in the middle of an agricultural field. According to Balfour (1989:17), the plantation dates from 1710. Some historians believe that the Urquhart family purchased the plantation in 1730 as their first home in the county. The walls of the home are over eighteen inches thick. The house is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), not only because the house appears to have retained its architectural integrity, but also because of the archeological features that are almost certainly present and intact adjacent to the building.

Figure 3.1: Clements (087-0011)



While Georgian styles and their derivatives exist in Southampton County, they seem to be primarily found at

plantation sites as large two-story buildings, not as smaller one-story variants. One such Georgian house is located at Riverview Farm (087-5379) (Figure 3.2). The circa-1716 frame structure was brick clad in 1960. It is a two-story, single-pile, five-bay central passage dwelling. It has two small gable-end wings, a parallel rear wing and a perpendicular rear wing (now with a garage). This was the original Simmons Farm, sometimes referred to as the Simmons-Whitehead-Barnham Farm near Sebrell. This structure has not been surveyed at the intensive level, so details about the interior features and the integrity of the building have not been determined. The building appears to be potentially eligible for the NRHP because of its early date of construction.

Figure 3.1: Riverview Farm (087-5379)



Many of the small farmstead dwellings built in the mid-eighteenth century were built on a modest rectangular one or two room house plan, with a loft. This was probably the most frequent type constructed in colonial Southampton County. The original portion of Beechwood (087-0002), has been assigned a construction date between 1722 and 1756 (Joyner 1978:89). This house was apparently built in three stages, with additions in 1814 and 1860 (Figure 3.3). The original portion was described as a one-room, one-story house, built in the third quarter of the eighteenth century by Jordan Denson who died in 1806. The Denson family was prominent in the Society of Friends. Jordan Denson owned 197 acres of land in 1782, when the property was first taxed. Beechwood is another rare example that dates to the late colonial period (1750-1789) or perhaps earlier, and it has already been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additions to smaller early structures were fairly common occurrences in Virginia. As families grew or as more space was required, additions to meet those needs were constructed adjoining original buildings.

Figure 3.3: Beechwood (087-0002)



Architecturally, the large brick or frame plantation houses and the in-town homes of the planter elite often receive the most attention. While they can be spectacular or extensive, they do not represent the average dwelling in Southampton County or those in most of the Southern and 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, they tended to be small one and two-room plans with one or 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 during the early eighteenth century with the introduction of hallways into house patterns. Floor plans began to be organized around a central passage or a side passage plan. Hallways permitted a measure of privacy and also began to encourage householders to designate single-purpose rooms. The concept of privacy, leisure time and houses with “style,” developed in the 1700s, and this fostered the symmetrical Georgian center hall plan that evolved, creating larger and more rooms designed for special uses, such as a dining room and library (Carley 1994:76; Rifkind 1980:18). New houses of the planter elite and city dwellers were often well proportioned, built for a formal effect, and decorated with ornamentation.

Some of the service functions, particularly kitchens, were moved to separate buildings near the main house as dependencies, often flanking the main structure at the rear and often matched on the opposite side of the main dwelling with another dependency that performed other functions for the household- perhaps an office or blacksmith shop. Practical reasons for constructing a kitchen as a separate building were safety, comfort, and movement of servants and commotion away from the main house. Many house fires originated in the kitchen (and many detached kitchens burned as well) and in the summertime, cooking generated an uncomfortable degree of heat. With cooking functions removed from the house more space was available for other uses and the house was cooler in the summer. Later still, these functional buildings would be moved closer to the main house and actually be joined or incorporated into the main house as cook stoves replaced the fireplace as the cooking mode. This pattern became the traditional form of dwelling for most of the Middle-Atlantic states and a common housing form throughout Virginia.

Large colonial houses often were constructed in variations of the Georgia style, such as the large Ridley plantation house (087-0045) located near Capron and the Southampton Parkway. The oldest of the Ridley family plantation homes may have been constructed during the late colonial period (1750-1789). This house is known

by the name Rotherwood (087-0045) (Figure 3.4). It was the home of Nathaniel Ridley III and Priscilla Applewhite Ridley. It was also the home of Col. Thomas and Amy Scott Ridley, who were married in 1778. Rotherwood was willed to Francis Thomas Ridley at his mother's death. It is a large hipped-roof, two-story, five-bay, frame, central passage dwelling with four chimneys. It is built of heavy hand-hewn and rip-sawn timbers that are mortise and pegged, with lathes made of split or rived pine (Southampton County Historical Society Bulletin 7, Part B:1977:17). This building has 26 windows (originally eight-over-ten lights for eighteen per window now replaced with six-over-six double-hung sash), nine large rooms and four smaller rooms, eleven-foot ceilings, and carved handrail balusters on a single-flight stairwell. The doors are red pine and have HL hinges on doors with large colonial locks. The rooms have wood cornices, wainscoting and plastered walls. The floors were constructed from wide pine boards and the mantels were hand carved (Ibid. 1977). This building was revisited during the present project and recorded in its present condition, but not at the intensive level. The interior was not viewed during the present survey. Today the house has a porch across the full length of the rear, with awnings on the five windows of the upper level. Because the house was built about the time that the county was established, a building of the size and in this condition is very rare. The house appears to be potentially eligible for the NRHP, and to have retained most of its integrity.

Figure 3.4: Rotherwood (087-0045)



In many respects, the last years of the eighteenth century and the first few decades of the nineteenth century (early National Period- 1789-1830) were very interesting in terms of the development of house patterns and style because new ideas about formality, proportion, style, and classical themes (i.e. Greek Revival) were emerging in America. However, not all would share in the developing architectural tradition. Many slaves and poor whites would continue to live in small frame houses. Many had dirt floors and were very crowded. Thatched roofs and wattle and daub were common (Parramore 1978:68-69). No buildings of the poorest variety were recorded unless they were dependencies on a larger recorded plantation. A number of smaller buildings that served as residences were recorded, however, including one three-room abandoned one-story dwelling along Southampton Parkway in the western part of the county (087-5454). The identified structure may date to as late as 1850, but most likely is earlier. This small weatherboard frame one-story structure with a loft has a brick pile foundation and is side-gabled with a standing seam tin roof. The building has a central entrance with two rooms in the front and a rear ell consisting of a single room. It has a front entrance porch and an integral side porch on each side of the rear ell and two dormers in the attic. There is a chimney on one gabled end. This building is representative of the more common small house types in the early to mid-nineteenth century.

The James Rochelle house (201-0002) in Courtland is a surviving dwelling that was built before 1817, during the period when the town was known as Jerusalem (Figure 3.5). James Rochelle married Martha, the widow of his friend, Dr. Henry Gray in 1817. The widow had been living in the house located on lots fourteen and fifteen (Peters 1975:11). Dr. Gray's insurance policy for the building on these lots indicated that there was a two-story frame dwelling house measuring twenty by twenty-eight feet. Mr. Rochelle was clerk of the court during the trial of Nat Turner and his co-conspirators. In 1900, this building had a two-story section with a side passage, aligned with a one-and-one-half story side-gabled section. The side passage then became a central hallway to the dwelling. Peters (1975:13) indicates that a wing at the rear of the house has been removed, but that the simple white frame house has been little changed otherwise. The Southampton County Historical Society now has ownership of this building, which has been restored to structural soundness and renovated. The structure would be likely to be found eligible for the NRHP due to its age and historic integrity and association with significant persons.

Figure 3.5: Rochelle House (201-0002)



Southampton County has a number of excellent examples of middle-income housing from the 1790-1830 period. Among those listed on the National Register of Historic Places are Elm Grove (087-0103) (Figure 3.2) and Rose Hill (087-0052) (Figure 3.6). Elm Grove in Courtland is a late eighteenth century building that was expanded in the early nineteenth century using the profits from a number of agricultural activities. In addition to the house, the property contains a number of nineteenth century outbuildings. Rose Hill was built between 1805 and 1815. Like Elm Grove, it has exterior gable-end chimneys and a central passage plan. Rose Hill in Capron, has its kitchen incorporated into a rear wing of the house. These buildings have been previously inventoried but Rose Hill was visited during the present survey.

Figure 3.6: Elm Grove (087-0103)



Domestic architecture during the Antebellum Period (1830-1865) usually reflected the relative economic status of the landowner. The larger plantations had grander and more impressive dwelling houses. Smaller hall and parlor type houses were utilized from the earlier part of this period and before, often with later, two-story additions. The Federal-style Catherine Whitehead House (087-0034), where Nat Turner's group killed four family members, and the Rebecca Vaughan House (087-0047), where they committed their last murders, are examples of the smaller hall and parlor type houses (Balfour 1989:26-27). The Rebecca Vaughan House has been listed on the NRHP (Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7: Rebecca Vaughan House (087-0047)



Figure 3.8: Rose Hill (087-0052)



While, the Early Classical Revival style of architecture was popular during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the Greek Revival style was popular with the more affluent during the period 1820-1860. The Early Classical Revival builds on the Georgia and Federal styles, with an entry porch or portico that dominates the front façade of the building and is usually supported by four simple classic columns (Roman Doric or Tuscan types). An elliptical fanlight usually is present above a paneled central hall doorway, and windows are aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows. This style occurs into the mid-nineteenth century (McAlester 1998:169). The Benjamin Pope Homestead (087-5419) at 28210 Meherrin Road has the classic pediment, two-story portico porch of the Classical Revival style (Figure 3.9). This frame two-story, hip-roofed dwelling house was built in the 1840s and reflects a classic grandeur. There is a perpendicular wing on the rear, with porches. The detached kitchen is a brick one and a half story, side-gabled structure. The Benjamin Pope plantation (087-5419) is a rare resource and would likely be found eligible for the National Register. It was one the ten resources surveyed at the intensive level.

Figure 3.9: Benjamin Pope Homestead (087-5419)



The Greek Revival style has entry porches with prominent square posts or round columns with capitals. The cornice lines of the main roof are emphasized. Central doorways have narrow side panes and a rectangular line of transom windows. Dr. Menaleus Lankford's office (087-0029), located near Black Creek, a modest one-story building with a high basement, reflects the influence of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The high brick basement, with windows, provides elevation and elegance for the Greek Revival style frame structure. The paradigm is the monumental two-story temple front with pedimented gable (Rifkin 1980:30, 39). The interior of Dr. Lankford's office was viewed during this project and was in remarkably good condition with excellent integrity. It has a centrally-placed entrance on the gable end. The gable end has a box cornice with a full return and the roof has a standing seam tin covering. There is a wide-shouldered chimney on the opposite gable end. The one-room basement has a brick floor, a plaster and lathe low ceiling, four windows and a fireplace with mantle. The basement windows have wooden louvered shutters that are still operable. The upstairs office consists of one room with pine board flooring. The room has plastered walls, a wood wainscot rail, two windows on each side, and fireplace mantle. The office is a significant resource and it is likely to be found eligible for the NRHP.

As might be expected, houses that had additions over a long period of time, or that were damaged by fire and partially rebuilt, might reflect a number of styles in the architecture of the structure. Warrique (087-0013) is an early hipped-roof brick plantation mansion that was originally built about 1793. It suffered fire-damage and was re-built in the 1860s. Warrique reflects some of the stylistic features popular at the time it was rebuilt in the 1860s. Features observed on this structure had details of Early Classical Revival (elliptical fan light, pediment-style two-story entrance porch), Greek Revival (Prominent entry porch with square columns) and Italianate styles (bracket decorations on the entry porch). The two-over-two double-hung sash windows reflect the later periods of construction. The Warrique plantation (087-0013) (house and outbuildings), an Urquhart family plantation with a long history is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Although the interior of the house was not viewed during the project and it has not been surveyed at the intensive level, the main dwelling and outbuildings appear to retain historic integrity.

Perhaps the most popular farmhouse style in nineteenth century Southampton County was the two-story, five-bay, central hallway dwelling, with gable end exterior shouldered chimneys (either two or four), usually with a rear wing and most often, with a detached kitchen (not surviving). These either had hipped roofs of gable ends. There are a number of these structures represented in the county--some from the earlier part of the century, but most from the period following the Civil War. Midfield (087-0057), located near Capron, was built about 1826 by George Booth Cary, a Virginia Congressman, and is representative of this house style from the early period (Balfour 1989:25). The Jeremiah Cobb house, Snowden (087-0031), the home of the judge in the Nat Turner trial in 1831, is an earlier house with two additions completed before 1850. This property is an example of the I-house with a hipped roof (Balfour 1989:29).

During the Reconstruction period (1865-1880), there were a number of Victorian architectural styles that were popular in Virginia. In the period 1855-1885, the Second Empire style was popular in cities and towns. An example of a Second Empire style dwelling is located at 29231 S. Main Street (270-5009) in Newsoms. This is a large, two-story, five-bay, frame dwelling with a central passage, a two-story entrance porch with four columns and a small front gable, and a mansard roof. There are two interior chimneys on each side of the building.

Gothic Revival style houses were also popular in the period 1840 to 1880. The houses of this style usually had a steeply-pitched roof with decorative gable verge boards. In churches, this style was usually reflected in parapets and crenellated towers. A Courtland house of this style is located at 22141 Main Street (201-5001-0007). It is a two-story, cross-gabled frame structure with three front gables, one of which is recessed. The gables are decorated with rafter tails and box cornices with partial returns. The house has a one-story full-width front porch trimmed with side brackets. The William Powell home in Boykins, located at 32142 S. Main Street (174-5002-0016) was built ca. 1852 in this style (Balfour 1989:111). The house is a two-story frame structure with

shallow, flattened gables and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends—primarily a side-gabled house with a two-story entrance porch with a matching, shallow, front gable. The entrance porch has four columns. The second story porch balcony has wrought-iron railings. The window moldings are in the shape of a flattened arch. There is a two-story bay extension on the gabled ends. The windows are tall and fairly narrow, four-over-four, double-hung sash. The flattened arch of the windows is matched in the central passage entrance trim, which has a transom light. This house was surveyed at the intensive level and is potentially eligible for the National Register.

Italianate style buildings were also popular in the period 1840 to 1885 (McAlester 1998:211), but occur locally into the twentieth century. Structures in this style usually had a low-pitched hipped roof, often with overhanging eaves decorated with brackets, sometimes a cupola or a tower. The Parson's or Beaton House (174-5002-0033) at 18221 Bryant Street in Boykins is one example of this style (Figure 3.10). The Parson's house is a one-story frame dwelling, with a low-pitched hipped roof, two pairs of matching front windows, a central passage entrance with a shallow gable overhanging entrance porch that is supported by two columns. There are exterior chimneys on each end of the house and a rear wing. This house was surveyed at the intensive level.

Figure 3.10: Beaton House (174-5002-003)



The style most often observed in Southampton County is vernacular Victorian (referred to as “folk”). Adapted into existing traditional building styles such as the I-house (two-story, one-room deep, central hallway) plan, one or two-story gable-front with side-wing (L-shaped) dwellings, pyramidal hipped with recessed porch, plus front or side-gabled structures, vernacular Victorian was common during the period from about 1870 until about 1910. The Victorian features added to these folk buildings are usually Italianate or Queen Anne inspired decoration, which are typically less elaborate than the high style Victorian interpretations. Typical features might be a full return cornice with brackets under the eaves and/or spindle work porch detailing. The Charles Pretlow Farmhouse (087-5448) at 37165 Pretlow Drive, is a good example of the vernacular Victorian styles (Figure 3.11). A frame, two-story, five-bay, central hallway building with interior gable-end chimneys; the house is one-room deep and has a rear one-story kitchen ell. This dwelling has a shallow gable roof with a box cornice with partial returns and decorative brackets. The front entrance porch is supported by paired square wood posts with a cut-out star decoration on each side, filigree trim, and scroll brackets.

Figure 3.11: Charles Pretlow Farmhouse (087-5448)



The Victorian Queen Anne style appeared at the beginning of the Growth period (1880-1890) and was popular into the early twentieth century in Southampton County. The latter style often had steeply pitched roofs with irregular shapes, a dominant front-facing gable, patterned shingles, bay windows, and decorative turned spindles and sawn brackets. The towns of Courtland, Boykins, Capron, Drewryville, Sedley, Ivor and Newsom all have some excellent examples of houses built during this period. An example of this style in Courtland is the house at 22125 Main Street (201-5001-0008) (Figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12: 22125 Main St in Courtland (201-5001-0008)



This Courtland house is a two-story frame structure with cross gables, decorative brackets on the projecting eaves, and a front bay window on the first floor adjacent to the front entrance porch. A good example in Newsom is the house at 29264 S. Main Street (270-5010). Besides a cross gable, with differing gable heights, the Newsoms house has a hexagonal three-story tower, a hipped front dormer, and two-story side-bay windows under a projecting gable eave. There is a one-story wraparound front entrance porch. The Feltz House (174-5002-0023) in Boykins, at 18125 Virginia Avenue, is another good example of the Queen Anne style (Figure 3.13). This house is a two-story frame dwelling with cross gables and a rear wing. There is a turret and full width porch. The porch has decorative brackets. The house at 22355 Railroad Street (270-5005) in Newsom is also an example of the Queen Anne style house with towers and turrets. In this case, the two-story frame house has cross gables, with a centered gable in front, a central passage, and a turret on each side, giving the house a more balanced appearance. There is a full wraparound porch supported by columns. Shingle style houses were also popular during the period 1880-1900; however, no examples were identified in Southampton County.

Figure 3.13: Feltz House (174-5002-0023)



The style known as Richardsonian Romanesque appeared at the beginning of the Growth Period, 1880-1900. It was popular in cities and larger towns until the turn of the century. Hipped roofs, round towers with conical roofs, and a stone or rough masonry structure were features of this style. The old Stonewall Hotel in Franklin (now razed) was a good example of this style (Balfour 1989:99). This hotel was a three-story edifice with a three-story turret at the corner. The exterior of the building was rough-cut stone. A wraparound single-story porch was present on the street-facing sides and had large supporting columns and a wood railing. Gabled pediments were located above each pair of upper-story windows on the hipped roof. The Joseph Joyner store in Burdette (087-5513) was made from the same manufactured cast stone as the Stonewall Hotel however, architecturally it would be classified as being commercial style.

Domestic architecture in Southampton County in the period between 1900 and 1950 included a continuation of the late nineteenth vernacular style dwelling houses, with some Victorian/Queen Anne decorative elements. The side-gable, gable-front and the gable-front-with-wing were popular house forms in one and two-story versions. An example of the latter is the house at 33149 Broad Street (087-5424) in Branchville. This two-story side-gabled example has a gable-front two-story entrance porch, with a second story porch deck. The gable front house was particularly popular in towns, where house lots were relatively narrow and deep. The pyramidal single-story house and the two-story houses sometimes referred to as “Four Square” because of their floor plans

were also very popular. These types of houses usually had hipped or pyramidal roofs. Queen Anne houses were still popular in the first part of the century. A good example of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century Queen Anne style home is located at 22154 Main Street (201-5001-0019) in Courtland. This is a side-gabled one-story house with a front centered gabled and full-width front porch (Figure 3.14).

Figure 3.14: 22160 Main St. Courtland (201-5001-0020)



Colonial revival houses also were popular, often incorporating the two-story hipped or pyramidal roof into construction features, with a full-width porch-popular from 1890 until about 1915-as well as side-gabled and hipped-roof plans without a porch (McAlester 1998:325). An example of a Colonial Revival house from the town of Sedley is the residence at 30408 Sycamore Avenue (087-5436). This two-story frame house was built in a four-square plan with hipped roof and a full-width front porch. Side-gabled two-story central passage houses in the Colonial Revival style were popular from the 1880s. The earliest of these, constructed between 1880 and 1910, usually had exaggerated details, such as fanciful, pedimented dormers and other features with awkward proportions (McAlester 1998: 321-322). The Colonial Revival style was most popular until 1940. The residence at 18139 Virginia Avenue in Boykins (174-5002-0028) is another variant of the Colonial Revival house. This particular example has two front-gable dormers and a side-entrance porch on the gable-end. There is also a full-width front porch on the two-story section that is not a usual feature on the side-gabled plans. More often, the end-gabled variety has a flat-roofed one-story addition on one or both ends and a small entrance stoop or no porch at all. A front-gabled gambrel-roof version of the Colonial Revival was introduced in the 1890s. The gambrel roof became more popular as a side-gabled gambrel after 1920.

Bungalows and cottages in the Craftsman style (low pitched roofs, side or front-gabled, exposed rafters, tapered porch piers, etc.) were popular from about 1905 into the 1930s. An example of a Craftsman style bungalow recorded during the present survey is the house located at 22160 Main Street (201-5001-0020) in Courtland. This house has an integral porch, battered square posts on piers, a front shed dormer and exposed rafter ends. The Craftsman style was very popular throughout southeastern Virginia. Modern houses were being constructed after about 1935, including ranch houses, split-levels, contemporary shed-roof styles and houses with minimal traditional elements and increased contemporary features, such as picture windows and car ports.

Many new residences have been built in the county since 1950. Suburban residential growth is also occurring in the once rural areas adjacent to Franklin and Courtland. Residential areas in the Boykins area grew noticeably in the mid-twentieth century with forty three new houses built between 1940 and 1955 along new streets that postdate World War II. Housing types constructed in Southampton County subsequent to World War II range from trailers parks to upscale housing developments, the majority of which are solely single dwellings. As of 1997, there were 7,627 residential buildings in Southampton County and 5,858 of these are single-family dwellings. There are 243 multi-family housing units and 1,526 mobile homes. The latter represent twenty percent of the housing in Southampton County.

3.3 Government/Law/Political

The Governmental/Law/Political theme relates primarily to activities related to politics and government and to the enactment and administration of laws by which a nation, state, or other political jurisdiction is governed. Property types representing this theme include public administrative and service buildings such as the Capitol and Executive Mansion or a town hall, federal, state, or county courthouse, prison, jail, police department, fire hall, post office, public works projects or other government buildings. Two obvious government-related facilities in Southampton County are the courthouse (201-0003) and the Southampton Correctional Center (087-0004).

The present Southampton County courthouse (201-0003) was the third one built on the same site in Courtland, Virginia. The first Southampton County Courthouse was built in 1752, when the town was known as Jerusalem. The first courthouse was forty feet long and twenty-four feet wide. It was built on two acres that the county purchased from Elizabeth Exum. A prison with pillory, stocks, and whipping post were constructed on the same property. Another courthouse was built on the same property in 1798. That courthouse was deemed inadequate and in 1834 a two-story brick courthouse was built on the same two-acre plot by Clement Rochelle and Jeremiah Cobb. The 1834 courthouse was front gabled with an attic fanlight and a boxed cornice with a full return. The courthouse had no portico, no wings, and was almost devoid of classical details (Peters and Peters 1995: 102). It may have been fashioned after the courthouse of Isle of Wight County, built in 1800. The present portico was added during the remodeling of the courthouse in 1924 (Historic Records Survey WPA 1940:56). This remodeling incorporated the courthouse and clerk's office into a single structure by connecting them with a three-story annex. The bricks of the building were all painted gray. The building had a slate roof and an added neo-classical pediment with concrete columns and front porch (Historic Records Survey WPA 1940:56). The old courthouse section has a height of forty feet and was forty-two feet wide and forty-five feet long. The first floor has a large courtroom with a gallery. There was a second-story passageway to the third-story of the annex. The annex is the same height as the courthouse, but is not as wide. The clerk's office main record vault is two-stories high and is supplemented by an adjacent smaller vault. In 1940, the building had a basement furnace and two radiators. The Southampton County Courthouse is now considered to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The county now has a modern administrative building across Main Street. Such offices and buildings (many private or rented) as were utilized by the County in 1940 are addressed in the Historic Records Survey (WPA 1940:56-60).

One of the structures recorded during the present survey which is associated with the Governmental/Law/Political theme was the Ivor Municipal Building (243-5008). It is a Colonial Revival building dating from about 1920. The one-story hip-roofed building had previously served as the Old Ivor School. The Ivor Municipal Building has not been the subject of an intensive survey and the integrity of the building has not been assessed.

3.4 Education

The education theme relates to the process of conveying or acquiring knowledge or skills through systematic

instruction, training or study, whether through public or private efforts. Property types include schools such as academies, one-room, two-room, consolidated, grammar, secondary, trade or technical schools; colleges and universities and their campuses; libraries; research facilities such as laboratories, observatories, and planetariums.

The history of education in Southampton County was addressed in Chapter 2. School buildings were established in Southampton County by 1850. More schools were constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century. The peak number of schools seems to have been about 109 schools in 1900, with the majority being one-room schools. These were all frame structure. The earliest brick school was built in Boykins in 1906. There were separate schools for whites and African-Americans. After 1900, there was a gradual consolidation of schools and by 1940, there were seventy-one schools in use, including eight secondary schools in the larger communities. In the process of consolidation, the size of the schools became large as the requirements for space changed: from one-room to two-room and four-room buildings. There were twelve school-related structures recorded during the present survey, including the Ivor Municipal Building (243-5008). Some of these buildings have been put to other use, but most are abandoned. They all appear to be in good condition at this time, but vacant buildings become the target of vandals and they tend to become subject to collapse once the elements take their toll on exposed rafters.

The earliest school building that has survived was surveyed at Berlin (087-5339) (Figure 3.15). This building, which was constructed in the Classical Revival style about 1850, was closed in 1925 (Babb 1965:52). The Berlin school was a frame two-room structure with a brick pier foundation. Its gable roof had a box cornice with partial returns. The building may have been used as a community building after 1925, but it is now vacant. It is in fair condition and is potentially eligible for the National Register.

Figure 3.15: Berlin (087-5339)



The old Ivor school (243-5009), built about 1900, was first a two-room school and then was used as a small high school in 1908 (Babb 1965:33-34). The one-story Colonial Revival style building has a hipped roof and does not appear to have been altered from its rectangular plan. It is in good condition. In 1920, the town of Ivor built a larger one-story school of brick, also in the Colonial Revival style. This school served as the high school for the

surrounding community until it was closed in the early 1960s. This building has a small hipped-roof entrance porch with two columns. The building is presently used as the Ivor Municipal Building.

The old Wakefield Road school for African Americans was built around 1920 (Figure 3.16). This rural school is a frame one-story gabled-building (087-5411) which is still standing in good condition. It was closed and abandoned sometime before 1965. The school lot is now heavily wooded. The old Courtland School (201-5001-0003), built in 1928, is a one-story, frame, cross-gabled building, built in the Colonial Revival style. The building has entrances on each side of the front-gabled wing. It has a central interior chimney. The building served the Courtland community as the African-American elementary school until the schools were desegregated in the early 1960s. The building is still standing and is in good condition.

Figure 3.16: Old Wakefield School (087-5411)



Historic photographs indicate that the small rural schools for the African-American students in Southampton County in the 1920s and 1930s were built in a variety of rectangular plans. None of these buildings are still in use, but some have survived. Most were abandoned, but some were converted to other uses, such as the Sandy Ridge School (087-5329). It was built about 1900 and is now used as a farm building. The larger communities, such as Adams Grove, had larger schools. The photographs of the schools show that some had front gables with a central entrance and banks of windows on each side. Some had a corner entrance with an integral porch. Others had a five-bay, central-passage, gable-end, single-pile plan, with windows located on each side of the entrance (Balfour 1989:68).

Towns such as Drewryville, Ivor and Boykins had their own high schools, which were closed when the county's high schools were consolidated in the early 1960s. The brick high school (087-5457) at Drewryville was built about 1920. It has Colonial Revival elements such as a four-column pedimented portico, full returns on the gable ends at the rear of the building, a raised brick foundation and stone watercourse, and light-colored stone quoins. The plan is symmetrical, with a hipped roof section at the front with side wings extending to the rear and wrapping around three sides of a two-story central auditorium with clerestory windows. The large windows that would have been typical of school buildings from the period have been converted to smaller nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows.

The school for African Americans located in Sebrell (087-5374) was built about 1930. It was built in the Classical

Revival style, is a five-bay, central-passage, single-pile plan building with end gables. The entrance was recessed under a roof, which was a fairly popular plan for these schools. This building is still standing and is in good condition. The Capron School (183-5004) is a contemporary 1930s building also in the Colonial Revival style. The African-American school at Newsoms (270-5014) was a Colonial Revival building built in the rectangular plan about 1930. It was a frame structure with a hipped roof. It is still standing but is not in use. The Mt. Olive School at Mars Hill (087-5382) was built in 1941. It is a one-story frame Colonial Revival building with a central passage entrance. It is in good condition.

3.5 Subsistence/Agriculture: Historic Plantations/Farmsteads

The Subsistence/Agricultural theme broadly seeks explanations of the different strategies cultures develop to procure, process, and store food. Agriculture refers to the process and technology of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and plants. Property types are varied and many, and include small family farmsteads, large plantations with representative or important collections of farm buildings, and other agricultural complexes such as peanut or tobacco warehouses, meat or fruit packing facilities, greenhouses, smokehouses, agricultural fields, stockyards, chicken coops, fish hatcheries, and facilities such as irrigation systems.

Agriculture is a most appropriate theme in the case of Southampton County architecture. There were a large number of historic crop production farms observed in Southampton County, and many of these dwellings recorded had associated barns and outbuildings. Prior to the survey there were at least twenty properties in Southampton County that had been inventoried as plantations or farms, but many more previously inventoried dwellings probably had farm-related outbuildings. There were 28 farm-related resources recorded during the 1999-2001 survey.

Twenty dwellings in rural locations were recorded during the 2006-2007 survey, but only a few of them had extensive collections of outbuildings. In two cases, former dwellings such as the Emma Jackson Davis Hancock House (087-5517) and the house located on Meherrin Road (087-5519) had been adapted to agricultural storage buildings.

Generally, the inventoried farms have barns and outbuildings that are frame with weatherboard siding and have a standing seam metal roof. Most barns have gable ends, with open bays in some area of the building for large equipment. The main barn may also have had open-bay, shed-roof additions for equipment or hay storage or animal shelter. One example that illustrated the open-bay equipment storage area is the barn at the Benjamin Pope Homestead (087-5419). Rotherwood (087-0045) has a similar building. Some recently built equipment sheds (open-bay) are earth-fast or post-in-ground. Some farms also had log outbuildings, such as the Bryant Farm (087-5325). Closer to the main residence, most plantations and farmsteads had a smokehouse and detached kitchen. At the Simmons Home Farm (087-5378) (Figure 3.17) a smokehouse and the chimney of a kitchen outbuilding are preserved.

Figure 3.17: Simmons Home Farm (087-5378)



The earliest plantation with outbuildings was Riverview or the Simmons-Whitehead Farm (087-5379) near Sebrell. The original dwelling on this farm dates to about 1716, but the barn and pump house were constructed in the mid-twentieth century. The house is potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Rotherwood (087-0045) is a historic plantation located near Southampton Speedway and Southampton Parkway. The handsome two-story Georgian frame dwelling house dates to the 1750-1785 period. Outbuildings are located mostly on the west side of the structure. There is a remaining wood-frame privy at the rear of the house. Four outbuildings stand side-by-side in a row and the barn is located north of these buildings, all in close proximity to the main dwelling. The barn is a gabled frame structure with surrounding shed-roofed open bays. This shed-roof is supported by earth-fast posts. Another small rectangular outbuilding is also of earth-fast construction. One of the outbuildings has a gabled-roof, the others have shed roofs, and all have a standing seam metal roof. The barn and equipment shed date to the twentieth century and the other outbuildings may date to the nineteenth century at the earliest. The house and some of the outbuildings have good integrity.

Warrigue (087-0013) is a historic Urquhart plantation located in the northeastern part of the county near the Blackwater River. The original dwelling house on the plantation was built about 1793, but it burned and was rebuilt in 1860. The distribution of the outbuildings on the plantation included a row of dependencies on the west side of the house and a row of outbuildings located on either side of the entrance land that approaches the house through a fenced lot. Buildings that remain include a gabled, one-and-one-half-story frame structure that may serve as a guesthouse or office, located to the side of the dwelling, and two other small outbuildings in the side yard. The remaining shouldered brick chimney from the destroyed kitchen is located to the front west side of the dwelling. A one-story rear wing on the house appears to be the replacement kitchen. The outbuildings in the fenced lot in front of the house are all one-story wood frame buildings with metal roofs. Three modest-sized weatherboard frame outbuildings are located on the east side of the front lot and one on the west side. Two of these now function for horse care--one is a small stable and the other a tack room. The buildings probably date from the nineteenth or early twentieth century. Although the plantation has not had an intensive survey, it has a high level of integrity and is potentially eligible for the NRHP.

A modest one-and-one-half-story dwelling on Popes Station Road (087-5452) dating from c. 1790-1800, is a farmhouse that has few remaining associated outbuildings. It is side-gabled with a central passage and has shouldered chimneys on each gable end made from handmade brick. The rear of the house has an integral one-story addition and a one-story gable-roofed wing. The front has three gabled dormers. The remaining outbuilding on the farmstead is a gabled frame corncrib/barn with metal roof and shed roof bays on each side. This building probably dates to the nineteenth century. The house and barn are in good condition and potentially eligible for the NRHP.

Cedarview (087-5395), located north of Newsoms, dates from 1818 and is a cross-gabled, two-story frame dwelling with rear wing and shouldered exterior chimneys on each side of the central-passage building (Figure 3.18). The house has Gothic Revival features. Remaining outbuildings include one gabled frame barn with a shed-roofed storage addition at the rear. This farm is probably eligible for the National Register.

Figure 3.18: Cedarview (087-5395)



The Smith Ferry Road Farm (087-5330), located near Sunbeam, dates from 1840. The house is a two-story frame structure with gable-end chimneys, a central passage entrance, and a full front porch. The house has a one-story addition on the rear. Outbuildings are located some distance from the rear of the house and include an open bay equipment storage building, a gabled frame barn with one-story, shed-roofed, side-bay additions, and a grain storage bin. The outbuildings date to the mid-twentieth century. The house is potentially eligible for the National Register.

The Bryant Farm (087-5325) is located in the same vicinity and dates to about 1842. The Bryant house is a two-story frame building with a central passage, chimneys on each gabled end, and Queen Anne style trim. This old plantation has a number of buildings, including three additional small, one-story dwellings- the maid's house, the butler's house, and an old tenant house. It has two small log barns as well as a large gabled barn with integral storage bars on each side and a central passage. Gabled weatherboard frame outbuildings include the salting shed, the smoke house, and the chicken house. Most of the outbuildings, except the large barn, date from the nineteenth century and are in relatively good condition. This farm is potentially eligible for the National Register.

The Prince (Pope Family) Farm (087-5417) located on Meherrin Road dates to 1847. The dwelling house is a Greek Revival Style, two-story frame central passage building with a hipped roof. There are interior chimneys on the gable ends, a small front entrance porch, and a two-story rear wing with a large shouldered chimney on the gable end. There are several small outbuildings remaining and a gabled, frame, one-story tenant house that all date to the nineteenth century. This farm is potentially eligible for the National Register.

Bethlehem (087-5386), on Old Bellfield Road, dates to about 1850. The dwelling house is a large, central passage, two-story Greek Revival style, frame structure with a hipped roof. It has four interior chimneys. Outbuildings include a large gabled barn with one-story side bays, a frame gabled smoke house, a chicken house and a dairy. The outbuildings all date to the nineteenth century. The farm is potentially eligible for the National

Register.

The Simmons Home Farm (087-5378), on Cary's Bridge Road near Sebrell, has a Greek Revival dwelling that dates to 1869. The two-story frame house has a hipped roof and central passage plan with entrance porch. Outbuildings include a gabled frame smokehouse with a rear shed-roofed addition. The shouldered brick chimney from the old kitchen remains. There is a nineteenth century gabled barn with shed-roofed bays on each side. The farm appears to have good integrity and is potentially eligible for the National Register.

Round Hill Farm (087-5354) on Urquhart Quarter Road has a dwelling that dates to the 1880s, but the land was an Urquhart plantation before 1830. The smoke house and the commissary, both rectangular-plan, frame, one-story buildings, are original nineteenth century buildings. The two gabled barns are low-profile twentieth-century buildings. The farm, because of its long history, is potentially eligible for the National Register.

Other farms that were identified include the old Pretlow Home farm (087-5448) located north of Ivor. The farmhouse is a Late Victorian dwelling that dates to the 1870s. The farm includes a number of original nineteenth-century outbuildings that are in good condition except the barn, which has collapsed. The house faces the entrance lane and the outbuildings are located on the sides and to the rear of the house. All of the outbuildings are weatherboard-clad frame structures. The building east of the house is a gabled outbuilding with an equipment storage shed-roofed addition. Next to that building is a front-gabled corn crib with shed-roofed equipment bays on each side. The large collapsed gabled barn is next to the corn crib. A shed-roofed outbuilding is across the farm lane from the corn crib. The side-gabled outhouse is behind this last structure and behind the house. Between the outhouse and house is a gabled smokehouse and storage shed. On the west side of the house and to the rear is a shed-roofed chicken house. Two other small-gabled outbuildings are located nearby. The integrity of the buildings in the complex is good. The farm is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register.

Another farm identified is the Cahill Farm (087-5351) located on Wakefield Road. This farm has an 1880s dwelling. The central passage two-story frame house has exterior brick chimneys on the gable ends and full-width front porch. Outbuildings include a one-story frame two-room tenant house with a shouldered chimney on one gabled end. Next to that structure is a modern gabled-roof garage. There is a frame smoke house, and a frame weatherboard-clad barn is located to the rear. The buildings are all in good condition.

Other late nineteenth-century farms inventoried include Fairview (087-5385) with a large two-story Queen Anne style farmhouse and several small outbuildings including a smokehouse and two barns. The remains of an 1880s farm (0878-5449) located on Statesville Road south of Newsoms, include the two-story frame dwelling with a two-story entrance porch and a collection of out-of-use outbuildings that consist of a smokehouse, an open-bay side-gabled barn with shed-roof additions on each end, a gable-roof tin hog barn, and two open-bay, gabled, frame equipment sheds, all in various stages of disrepair. Other farms inventories include the Oak Grove farm (087-5338), the Richard White Farm (087-5342), and the Simas Farm (087-5344). One agri-business was inventoried. This was Newsoms Ag Supplies (270-5011) with facilities that date from the 1930s. It is addressed under the Industry/Processing/Extraction theme.

3.6 Religious Structures

The religious theme concerns the organized system of beliefs, practices, and traditions regarding the world view of various cultures and the material manifestation of spiritual beliefs. Property types include various places of worship, church schools, and church-related residences. Examples of religious buildings are churches, temples, meetinghouses, ceremonial sites, religious academies and convents. Southampton County has a very interesting variety of active historic churches. There were fifty-five active churches in the county in 1980 (Clements 1991:289). During the 1999-2001 survey, nearly fifty percent of the county's churches were observed and

recorded. There were twenty-two religious structures recorded during the present survey, primarily churches. Cemeteries were also associated with some of these institutions. Of the twenty-two churches recorded, four had Greek Revival elements, ten had Gothic Revival elements, seven were Colonial Revival, and one had Romanesque-style arched windows that dated from 1903.

The Shiloh Baptist Church (087-5420) was originally built about 1868 and was a plain white frame church with a central bell-tower foyer at the front (Balfour 1989:46). The present structure is Greek Revival in style, with a corner tower. It is one of the oldest African American churches in the county. The next oldest church recorded is the Gothic Revival Gilfield Baptist Church (087-5416), located on Doles Road south of Ivor. This church was built in 1880 and has impressive corner towers. The Corinth Friends Meeting House (built 1882) (087-5445) is the third oldest religious structure inventoried. This frame Quaker meetinghouse is located near Sedley. The Corinth Friends Meeting House was inventoried at the intensive level and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The churches built in the Colonial Revival style date from 1890 to 1950. The earliest church in this style, built 1890, is the Sebrell Methodist Church (087-5356) on River Road. This front-gabled frame church has an entrance vestibule and a short-peaked belfry.

3.7 Social Structures

The social theme relates to social activities and institutions, the activities of charitable, fraternal, and other community organizations and places associated with broad social movements. Examples of social structures include community centers, granges, union halls, Masonic halls, fraternal and political organizations, garden clubs and civic clubs. There were six structures related to the social theme that were recorded during the 1999-2001 survey. One was the Ruritan Meeting house (270-5004) in Newsoms that was built about 1840 and has Federal styling. This building was moved to its present location in 1985, along with its chimneys. It is a side-gabled, one-and one-half-story central-passage building with front formers and a rear gabled wing. It was one of the first buildings in Newsoms. Despite no longer retaining its original setting, it is a significant building architecturally. The Corinth Friends Community Hall (087-5446) is a frame one-story building with hipped roof. The United Hunt Club building (087-5341) was built about 1890 as a two-story farmhouse. There were two Masonic Lodges surveyed—one in Boykins (174-5413-0009) (Colonial Revival, 1902) and the hall in Courtland (201-5001-0017). The Boykins Lodge is a one-story brick building with mansard roof and a wood column between each of the five arched front windows. The Courtland Lodge is a Greek Revival building from 1890. It is a two-story, gable-front, weatherboard-covered frame building. The Branchville Community Center (087-5429) is a Colonial Revival building from about 1890. The Branchville Community Center is a one-story front building that has boxed cornices with a full return. This is a former commercial building.

3.8 Industry/Processing/Extraction

The industry/processing/extraction theme explores the technology and process of managing materials, labor and equipment to produce goods and services. Activities related to this theme are quarrying, mining, manufacturing, lumber, technology, textiles, food processing, distilling, fuel, building materials, seafood and other industries. Examples of industry, processing and extraction properties are quarries (sand pits, etc.), mills, factories, shipyards, forges, kilns, power plants, and dams.

Although the lumber and paper mills associated with Camp Manufacturing Company were historically the most important industrial facilities of Southampton County, these mills are located in Isle of Wight County and the City of Franklin and not part of the county's historic resources. In 1999, Southampton County had a textile manufacturer, a pork processor, manufacturers of heavy logging equipment, and peanut handlers.

There were three properties recorded during the survey that were related to industry, processing or extraction. Johnson's Mill (087-5437), a surviving grain milling establishment, began as a gristmill using milling stones. The

mill consists of a number of frame structures, grain storage facilities and an associated water tower. The structure has a large timbered frame with an open interior space. Johnson's Mill was surveyed at the intensive level and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register.

Agricultural Supplies, Inc. of Newsoms (270-5011) has a milling structure and grain storage facilities for feeds and other products. The business consisted of a one-story store and feed mill complex. The 1930s frame store and warehouse was a commercial building on cement block piers. The interior had a feed warehouse with an office. Exterior feature included and in-ground truck scale, a feed loader and mill, and a metal silo.

Darden's Mill (087-5438) (inaccessible during the survey) consisted of the ruins of an 1870s turbine mill with a brick tower level that was missing doors and windows. This mill had a standing seam tin roof with box cornices.

3.9 Recreation/Arts

This theme relates to the arts and cultural activities and institutions associated with leisure time and recreation. It includes activities related to the popular and academic arts, literature, recreational gatherings, entertainment and leisure activity, and broad cultural movements. Examples of property types include a movie theater, playhouse, music facility, dance hall, fairground, museum, park, campground, sculpture, and auditorium.

Only one structure associated with this theme was recorded during the 1999-2001 survey. The Boykins Museum preserves the rural history of Southampton County in the 1840 train station (087-5414). The Southampton Agricultural and Forestry Museum at Courtland (established 1989) has an extensive collection of items relating to farm life and the timber industry, including a logging train, a one-room schoolhouse, a frame farmhouse, and a frame country store. In Courtland, the Rochelle-Prince House (201-0002) is maintained as a historical museum by the Southampton County Historical Society. It was recorded during the 2006-2007 survey.

3.10 Military/Defense

The Military/Defense theme relates to the system of defending the territory and sovereignty of a people and encompasses all military activities, battles, strategic locations, and events important in military history. This theme in Southampton County is limitedly represented. The National Guard Armory for the area is located within Franklin. It was built in about 1900 when Franklin was still a part of Southampton County. The Hercules Powder Plant is also located in Franklin. One "Nike" missile site was located between Franklin and Courtland, for the defense of the Hampton Roads area after World War II. There are no military bases or identified battlefields in the county, although some Civil War activity took place in Franklin and along the Blackwater River. During the Nat Turner Revolt, the county had an Armory in Courtland, but it is no longer extant.

3.11 Commerce/Trade

The Commerce/Trade theme relates to the process of trading goods, services, and commodities. Property types may include businesses, banks, specialty stores, offices, restaurants, and warehouses. There were forty-four structure recorded during the 1999-2007 survey that were associated with commerce and trade. Many of these structures were frame buildings serving the surrounding rural community with groceries and general merchandise. Some of the towns have a few historic commercial buildings also, especially in Courtland, Ivor, Sebrell, Newsoms, Boykins, Capron and Drewryville. Southampton County possesses a fairly large number of historic general store buildings, but many are no longer used for that purpose.

The old Urquhart store (243-5001) at Ivor is a gable-front, frame, one-and-one-half story building on Main Street. It was built around 1800 and was identified in the 1835 *Gazetteer of Virginia*. This building has a five-bay width with a full entrance porch. The building was not intensively surveyed, but it is a significant structure. The

Rawls Grocery Store (243-5002) at Ivor is a brick, one-story building with parapet in front of a gable-roof, built about 1920. The rectangular parapet is stepped once on each side. The Rawls Grocery has a centered entrance. Large single-pane display windows are located on each side of the front entrance.

The R.A. and W.N. Whitehead Store (087-5357) was built about 1920 in Sebrell. The Whitehead Store is a two-story brick commercial building with a full-width front porch and a brick parapet on a flat roof. There are three arched front windows on the second story. The first story front has a recessed central-entrance vestibule, flanked by display windows.

A brick commercial building at Newsoms, called the Railroad Street Store (270-5007), was built about 1930 in the Italianate style. The two-story building has two front-recessed entrances, both flanked by front display windows (now boarded). The building has a parapet on a flat roof. The building appears to have been constructed for two, side-by-side stores. There is a pair of rectangular front windows above both store-fronts.

Boykins has the largest variety and most important concentration of commercial buildings in the county, with nine inventoried store buildings plus a warehouse. Four of these are masonry structures. The four-story Boykins Warehouse (174-5002-0021) is the tallest building in the town and was built around 1900. This large rectangular building has a parapet and flat roof. There are rectangular windows at regular intervals on every story of the building. The circa-1910 brick Graves and Brothers Building (174-5002-0008) is Italianate, with a brick parapet front and flat roof and arched windows on the second story. Other Boykins properties include another large two-story brick commercial building (174-5002-0004) at 32090 Main Street. This 1930 Moderne building incorporates three identical store-fronts under a parapet on a flat roof, with apartments or warehouse space on the second floor. Each of the first story open bay stores has an entrance flanked by display windows. The Boykins Florist building (174-5002-0019) is another Moderne two-story brick commercial building with a parapet and flat roof. A one-story frame commercial building (174-5002-0012) at 32143 South Main Street is front-gabled and adjoined by a gable-roofed addition with parapet. The recessed entrance vestibule is centered on the front. Display windows flank the entrance and there are three paired windows on the addition.

A single commercial structure exists in Burdette. The Joseph Beauregard Joyner Store (087-5513) at the intersection of Burdette Road and the railroad was recorded during the 2006-2007 survey (Figure 3.18). It is a two-story structure made with fabricated stone bricks leftover from the Stonewall Hotel in Franklin.

Figure 3.18: Joseph Beauregard Joyner Store (087-5513)



3.12 Transportation/Communication

The transportation/communication theme relates to the process and technology of conveying passengers, materials and information. Transportation/communication property types include railway right-of-ways, bridges, roads, canals and locks, railroad depots and shed, airports, wharves, piers, lighthouses, boats and ferries. Southampton County has evolved its transportation patterns from navigating the Nottaway and Blackwater Rivers by boat to now mostly transportation by motor vehicle on paved roads. The several railroads that cross through Southampton County have produced a number of historic resources, both directly through depots and bridges, but also indirectly in the form of commercial warehouses and new communities.

Seven structures recorded during this survey were associated with transportation and communication. Most of them were associated with the railroads in the various towns of the county, and most of these were railroad depots. The railroad depot in Drewryville (087-0038) was built about 1880 in the Queen Anne Style. This structure has a wide overhanging eave supported by brackets. It has a hipped roof with curved wood finials. It has entrances that were formerly racially segregated. Other train-related facilities included a freight shed (174-5002-0030) and the train depot (087-5414) (moved) in Boykins, and the freight depot in Branchville (087-5428). One gas station, located in Courtland, could also be related to transportation as well as commercial themes. The Courtland Service Station (201-5001-0002) was built in the Colonial Revival style. The Courtland Railroad Depot (201-0005) and the remains of the highway bridge that crossed the Nottaway River, Cary's Old Bridge (087-5384), consisting of upright concrete pilings, were also identified during this survey.

3.13 Health Care/ Medicine

The health care/ medicine theme refers to the care of the sick, elderly and the disabled and the promotion of health and hygiene. Properties in this category would include hospitals, doctor's offices, clinics, personal care homes and medical research facilities. The resources in Southampton County that relate to this theme are limited.

The office of Dr. Lankford (087-0029) associated with the health care theme, was addressed in the section describing domestic structures. This is considered a potentially eligible resource as a domestic building type and its health care association would add to the significance of the building.

In 1919, the first hospital to be built in the county was located at Sedley and was staffed by Dr. and Mrs. Rufus L. Raiford. The hospital was located in their residence-a large Queen Anne frame structure, two-and-one-half-stories in height, four bays wide, with a side passage, hipped roof with dormers, and a full wraparound porch (Balfour 1989:116). It was built around 1900 and inventoried as 087-5435 during the survey, with an address of 30400 Sycamore Avenue, Sedley.

4.0 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Survey Background

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) was originally 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. The SHPO offices work with federal agencies, especially highway departments and urban renewal and housing agencies, to develop mechanisms to provide for the consideration of historic properties in the planning process. The VDHR uses available state monies, funded by the Virginia General Assembly, to encourage counties, towns and cities of the Commonwealth to participate in a Cost-Share program that includes projects to enhance the inventory of Virginia's surveyed resources. The original survey project in Southampton County is an example of the more common type of Cost-Share project.

The National Historic Preservation Act created the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a list of properties that "embody the historical and cultural foundations of the nation and which met criteria included in the language of the Act. Responsibility for maintaining the National Register resides with the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. VDHR and historic preservation offices in other states use National Register criteria in order to evaluate properties for listing on the National Register. In addition, the 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 where they are located. Listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register does not confer automatic inclusion in the National Register, but most registered properties are listed on both registers because the same standards for evaluation are used.

The identification and documentation of historic properties in Southampton County has been an ongoing effort for several decades. A notable result of previous survey efforts is that some of the county's most significant properties were identified early and have already been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Southampton County's resource base before the present survey was 476 previously recorded properties. The Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service has additional materials housed in the Library of Congress. The Southampton County Department of Planning has some documentation and survey material on properties in the County and has made an effort to archive copies of all of the information on its current and destroyed historic properties. The VDHR maintains the archived surveyed files of previously recorded historic properties as part of their planning work prior to the construction or alteration of State-owned highway facilities. Data from those surveys has also been submitted to the VDHR archives. Consultants have also recorded historic Southampton County properties during Section 106 processes. Private individuals and historical groups are major voluntary contributors to the Southampton County data in the historic properties files.

4.2 National Register of Historic Places Criteria

There exists in Southampton County a wide varieties of resources which are eligible for, or are listed in, the National Register of Historic Places. The most common resources listed on the National Register from Southampton County are residential and/or commercial properties. Also included on the National Register from the county are structures, objects, industrial properties, archeological sites, and designed landscapes. Not all properties are listed individually; some properties are part of a large collection and are included in historic districts or thematic multiple property submissions. In general, historic districts are usually found in villages, town, and cities, but collections of rural agricultural buildings and farm complexes have also been identified as historic districts. In addition to buildings and building ruins, properties associated with indigenous cultures have been listed on the National Register.

Potentially significant historic properties include districts, buildings, structures, objects, or sites which are at least fifty years old and which meet at least one National Register criterion. Criteria used in the evaluation process are specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60, National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4). To be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, a historic property must possess:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or*
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or*
- C. That embody 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 may lack individual distinction; or*
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

There are several criteria considerations. Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, 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 primarily significant 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 appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or*
- d. A cemetery which derives its primary importance 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 exceptional significance; or*
- g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.*

The physical characteristics and historic significance of the overall 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 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 association, or archeological values for which a property is significant because:

- a. It was present during the period of significance, and possesses historic integrity its reflecting character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period, or
- b. 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 archeological values for which a property is significant because:
 - 1. it was not present during the period of significance, or
 - 2. 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

Prior to the commencement of the present Southampton County architectural survey, a list of previously identified architectural resources and a map of their location was obtained from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. As noted, there were 476 previously inventoried architectural resources in Southampton County for which some information had been archived in the survey files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Among these were a range of properties that included residential, commercial and industrial properties such as rural county store, railroad stations, churches, and mill sites. Included with the inventoried properties were a wide range of primarily nineteenth-century agricultural buildings. Finally, the survey list included archeological sites. Not all previously identified resources have survived and resources that were in disrepair have been restored, such as Aspen Lawn (087-0137), which was re-recorded during the 2000 survey, subsequent to restoration.

The MAAR Associates, Inc. field team utilized copies of topographic maps that had locations of recorded properties (obtained from the VDHR archives) in an effort to avoid resurvey of previously inventoried properties. As noted, many properties had already been recorded, and some forms had minimal or incomplete data. A few of these resources were revisited by the Ottery Group in 2006-2007 in order to update the information on the property.

The level of documentation for the 476 previously inventoried properties varies. For those properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register, there is more information available about the history, architectural description, and condition of the property, along with maps and photographs of the property. Some of the other inventoried resources have minimal information, such as a photograph or just a reference to a location on a topographic map. Historic properties of Southampton County that were listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register or the National Register of Historic Places prior to the commencement of the 2006-2007 survey are:

Aspen Lawn	087-0137	V/N	Adams Grove Vicinity
Beechwood	087-0002	V/N	Beales Vicinity
Belmont	087-0030	V/N	Capron Vicinity
Brown's Ferry	087-0120	V/N	Drakes Corner Vicinity
Elm Grove	087-0103	V/N	Courtland Vicinity
Rebecca Vaughn House	087-0047	V/N	Courtland Vicinity

Rose Hill	087-0052	V/N	Capron Vicinity
Sunnyside	087-0098	V/N	Newsoms Vicinity
Simmons-Sebrell-Camp House	087-5377	V/N	Courtland Vicinity
Wiliam H. Vincent House	183-5002	V/N	Capron

Other properties that had been evaluated and were considered to be eligible included:

Oak Grove	087-0014
Thomaston	087-0092
Mahone Tavern & Hotel	201-0001

4.4 Survey Findings

For the 1999-2001 survey project, MAAR Associates, Inc. was asked to document 190 properties at the reconnaissance level. MAAR was also asked to inventory ten properties at the intensive level. The list of properties inventoried during the MAAR survey is included as Appendix A. For the 2006-2007 project, the Ottery Group was asked to document a minimum of ten properties at the reconnaissance level and five properties at the intensive level, and these are listed as Appendix C. While most of the properties documented are individual properties or related complexes, MAAR identified one potential historic district recommended for further study. The proposed historic district is in the Town of Courtland and a Preliminary Information Form (PIF) was completed by MAAR and edited by the Ottery Group in 2007.

The difference between the two levels of survey (reconnaissance and intensive) is in the amount of information recorded and entered on the survey forms. A reconnaissance survey requires black and white photographs of the exterior of the building or structures on the property, a sketch plan of the property to show the location and relationship of the individual historic and modern resources on the property, a topographic map that shows the location of the property, and the preparation of a survey form to document the property. The reconnaissance inventory form requires rather detailed information on each inventoried property, including the date of construction, address, resource type, exterior materials, style, architectural description, condition, threats, plan, historic context and significance statement. Besides the data required at the reconnaissance level, the intensive survey requires a higher level of historical documentation, more detailed property plans, and interior drawings and photographs, plus a narrative statement on the significance of the property.

The information on both the reconnaissance and intensive survey forms was entered into the Data Sharing System (DSS), VDHR’s web-based electronic database. The use of DSS allows the VDHR and other agencies and researchers to search a wide range of fields of information.

4.5 VDHR Architectural Styles

Architectural style is one of the principal markers or identifiers of historic buildings. While not always the most accurate or descriptive label, “styles” does provide a method to organize and categorize dwellings and commercial buildings. For example, it is often common for a building, especially one constructed during the late nineteenth century, to lack applied ornamentation, resulting in external simplicity (McAlester 1998:5). For this

reason, the use of the category “Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement” provide a place for those buildings with minimal ornamentation.

Of the architectural styles that are included in the DSS, the most frequently occurring styles were the vernacular and vernacular derivatives of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These are classified as Late Victorian, Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements, and Other. An additional set of popular styles is mostly found during the twentieth century. The Colonial Revival and the Bungalow/Craftsman expression of the Arts and Crafts Movement have their roots in the revivalism and classical revivals of the late nineteenth century. The earliest architectural styles: Colonial, Early Republic, Georgia, and Federal were the least represented in the survey, due to the smaller population during this period and to the longer length of time from date of construction to the present, presenting more opportunity for demolition and destruction of houses of those periods. The late mid- nineteenth century styles, such as the Gothic Revival and Italianate had a medium level of representation in the inventory.

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

VDHR/DSS Architectural Style	Number of Occurrences
Classical Revival	1
Colonial	2
Colonial Revival	36
Commercial Style	3
Early Republic	3
Federal	2
Gothic Revival	18
Greek Revival	15
Italianate	9
Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century Revivals	4
Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century American Movements	29
Late Victorian	1
Mid 19 th Century	4
Queen Anne	29
Mixed	1
Moderne	10
Romanesque	1
Second Empire	1
Spanish Colonial	1

4.6 Periods of Construction

The date range for the buildings included in this cost-share survey indicates the pattern of retention and demolition of buildings in Southampton County. Even though the county was settled early in the eighteenth century, only a few buildings have survived that were built before the mid-nineteenth century. Most early buildings tended to be hastily and poorly built, only lasted for a short time and would now be archeological resources. Others were incorporated into later structures during various historical periods, thus changing their exterior appearance. In the eighteenth century the general trend was to build in wood, and Southampton County’s architecture was no exception. As a result, most buildings did not survive to the present. Finally, changes in taste resulted in a trend toward urbanization of selected areas of the county (railroad towns) in the early twentieth century, and a gradual reduction in the number of working farms in the past century, means that there are more turn of the century dwellings represented than earlier buildings.

Date Range	Number of Occurrences
AD 1710-1730	2
AD 1750-1759	1
AD 1760-1799	1
AD 1800-1819	3
AD 1820-1829	1
AD 1830-1839`	0
AD 1840-1849	4
AD 1850-1859	9
AD 1860-1869	24
AD 1870-1879	34
AD 1880-1889	27
AD 1890-1899	10
AD 1900-1909	27
AD 1910-1919	10
AD 1920-1929	27
AD 1930-1939	26
AD 1940-1949	2
AD-1950-present	2

4.7 Recommendations for Proposed National Register Properties

MAAR Associates, Inc. suggests that the following properties be considered for listing on the National Register: the properties will be discussed in the following subsections.

Courtland Historic District

All properties surveyed at the intensive level

174-5002-0033	Beaton House	(Boykins)
174-5002-0016	Beaton-Powell House	(Boykins)
087-5445	Corinth Friend's Meeting House	(Corinth)
087-5457	Drewrysville	(Drewrysville)
087-5437	Johnson's Grist Mill	(Vicinity of Sedley)
087-5334	Millfield Baptist Church	(Vicinity of Ivor)
087-5348	Nicolas House	(Vicinity of Berlin)
087-5458	Sadler Cross Store	(Vicinity of Ivor)
201-0006	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	(Courtland)
087-5419	Pope Plantation	(Vicinity of Cross Keys)

4.7.1 Courtland Historic District (201-5001)

The proposed Courtland Historic District boundaries generally include both side of Meherrin Road (U.S. 58 Bus/SR 35) entering Courtland from the Nottaway River Bridge, on the west, as well as both sides of Main Street north to Oak Trail and south to include St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Also included are Bride Street past the Farm Bureau to include properties on the right side of Linden Street, all of Court Street down to Rochelle Street and the west side of High Street south of Florence Street to include side streets between Glyndon Street and Bride Street. Courtland is comprised of late-eighteenth century the early twentieth-century residential and commercial buildings. The district contains 175 buildings constructed between 1795 and 2002. There are seventy-one (40.5%) non-contributing buildings. A Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Courtland Historic District is attached as Appendix B.

Courtland, known as Jerusalem until 1889, has been the Southampton County seat from the founding of the county in 1749. Established first as a crossroads courthouse complex, the community grew slowly, remaining simply a village until the Atlantic and Danville Railroad was built in 1888 and the town changed its name to Courtland. Courtland grew rapidly after the establishment of the railroad, and town lots were extended with streets laid out for a business district and a residential section, north of the old courthouse settlement. The proposed historic district includes much of what remains of the 1889 development, plus structures from the earlier periods. Two destructive fires struck Courtland in 1934 and 1935, resulting in the loss of some older commercial properties.

The dwellings of the potential Courtland Historic District vary according to period and architectural style. The earliest known building is Mahone's Tavern (201-0001) built in 1796. The three-story, three-bay Early National Period frame dwelling has two chimneys and a rear addition. The Rochelle house (201-0002) is an early nineteenth century, single-pile, two-story, three-bay frame dwelling with a two-bay, one-and-one-half-story wing added in 1817. The frame dwelling rests on a brick foundation. It has beaded weatherboard siding, a gable roof with a boxed cornice and tapered, beaded verge boards and exterior end-brick chimneys. The Kindred House (a contributing property) represents late architectural influences. Built around 1888, the Kindred House in a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay Queen Anne style side-passage plan frame building on a raised brick foundation. The porches have turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets. Large landscaped grounds were typical for the houses of this period. Courtland's commercial buildings were generally frame buildings on long narrow lots fronting on Main Street. The two-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, frame commercial building at 22180 Main Street (201-5001-0021) is a good example of the early commercial buildings once found in Courtland.

As the county seat at the center of a primarily agricultural economy, Courtland's architectural resources provide a tangible link to the history and development of the county seats for the large rural southern counties of Virginia. Few county seats of this size have as many representative buildings to document their history. Recent modernization was a factor in the loss of the old clerk's office, the "old hotel," and the old Barker house (201-0007). However, representative buildings from every period still remain, which does provide visual evidence of almost every phase of the town's development and growth.

4.7.2 Properties Surveyed at the Intensive Level

MAAR Associates, Inc. met with the Southampton 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 that the buildings surveyed at the intensive level should be representative of the range of property types in the county, with a preference for the earlier and most significant architectural properties that could be accessed. The intensive survey sample does include properties that represent a range of Southampton County's architecture and historic themes from the early 1800s to the 1930s. These properties are addressed below:

Millfield Baptist Church (087-5334) is located near Ivor on Doles Road. The present building dates from 1902. The style of this church is Classical Revival with Gothic and Romanesque elements. The original building at this site was constructed in 1836. This is a front-gabled frame edifice with a two-story rectangular tower on the right front corner and a three-story rectangular bell tower on the left front corner. Both towers have a parapet with a flat roof.

Nicholas House (087-5348) is located near Berlin. The house was built in 1900 and is typical of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century American Movement. This dwelling is an I-house with a two-story, side-gable, central passage form. It has gable end exterior chimneys and a one-story rear ell.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church (201-0006) is located in Courtland. This weatherboard-clad frame church with steeply gabled roof was constructed in 1906 in the Late Gothic Revival style. It has art glass windows and a two-story corner tower that has an elaborate pyramidal, cedar-shingled spire.

The Beaton-Powell House (174-5002-0016) is located in Boykins. It has a one-story building constructed in the early nineteenth century in the Carpenter Gothic Style. It has a hipped roof, a shallow pediment entrance porch with rectangular wood columns, and exterior shouldered brick chimneys on each end of the house.

The Benjamin Pope plantation (087-5419) is located on Meherrin Road. It is a two-story Classical Revival mansion constructed in the 1840s. It has a two-story classical shallow-pedimented, gabled front porch supported by four colossal columns. The building was previously addressed in the domestic structures section.

Johnson's Grist Mill (087-5437) is located north of Sedley. It consists of a number of frame buildings and associated structures. The present structures date from 1939. This resource was addressed in the industry/processing/extraction section of the report.

The Corinth Friends Meeting House (087-5445) is located at Corinth. This Greek Revival style building was originally built in 1903 as a school building, the Corinth Academy. This is a front gabled, one-story frame building with a hipped roof entrance foyer, and an entrance on each side of the foyer. There are four rectangular windows on each side of the building.

The Drewryville School (087-5457) is located in Drewryville. It is a one-story brick building that was constructed in 1920 in the Classical Revival style. The building has classical columns across the front. It was used as the Drewryville High School until it was closed in the early 1960s. It is in poor condition.

The Saddler Cross Store (087-5458) is located near Ivor. It is a two-story front-gabled frame building with a two-story front porch. It was constructed in the 1860s and was used as a store until the 1980s. It is currently a private residence.

In 2006-2007, the Ottery Group surveyed seven resources at the intensive level:

The John Ivy Turner House (087-5193) at 17413 Cary's Bridge Road is a two-story, five-bay frame dwelling that incorporates rooms dating to 1740. John Ivy Turner was a Confederate soldier and the house is owned by a descendant who has restored it.

The Captain Pretlow House (087-5448) at 37165 Pretlow Drive is a Reconstruction-era frame Italianate I-house with rear ell. It has an extensive array of outbuildings, and unique star-shaped details on the front porch, as well as an impressive open stair hall.

The Henley Pretlow House (087-5509) at 4071 Proctor's Bridge Road is an eighteenth-century frame, hall-parlor house that has been relocated to the site from Surry County. It is in excellent condition.

The Emma Jackson Davis Hancock House (087-5517) off of Cottage Hill Road is a vacant hall-parlor house that likely dates to the early nineteenth century. It is a typical example of a farm dwelling from the nineteenth century.

The Mahone Tavern (201-0001) at 22341 Main Street in Courtland is a three-story frame center-passage dwelling with a two-story porch and rear ell. As one of the oldest structures in Courtland, for its role in the history of the county, it is especially significant.

Next door is Hart's Tavern (201-5003) at 22345 Main Street in Courtland. It is a two-story I-house with a rear ell that dates to the early to mid-nineteenth century. It was once connected to the Mahone Tavern, and is significant for this association.

The Rochelle-Prince House (201-0002) at 22371 Main Street in Courtland is owned by the Southampton County Historical Society. They operate it as a museum and have recently restored the structure. It is a two-story frame dwelling with a one-and-one-half-story side wing that was the original house. It is significant for its early date of construction and for its associations with persons significant to local and national history. The site also has a formal garden that is a rare example of the resource type in Southampton County.

4.8 Planning Recommendations for Southampton County

4.8.1 Land Use Issues

Development, primarily residential subdivisions, has taken place in Southampton in recent decades and it is likely that this pattern will continue. This factor poses a threat to historic buildings in the county, most of which are residential and agricultural. However, Southampton County retains a striking agricultural landscape that should be valued for its heritage, scenic beauty, and economic production. The large number of historic buildings that remain vacant on the landscape provide opportunities for historic preservation, rehabilitation, and revitalization. Because the focus of this project is on the historic aspects of rural life and agriculture, recommendations for the preservation of agricultural properties are directed at the maintenance of community character.

During its long history, Southampton County has always been a rural agricultural region. Since the end of World War II, the county has gained new residential buildings, mostly along rural highways, but also in communities such as Boykins. A few sub-developments have also been established in the traditionally rural areas on the outskirts of Franklin. As a result, farmland is being converted into housing, roads, and commercial and professional centers. The 1997 U.S. Agricultural Census found significantly fewer farms in Southampton County than had been recorded during previous censuses. Part of the reason for the decrease in number of farms is that present-day farmers are consolidating landholdings. This means that buildings on what were once smaller farms are increasingly coming under the ownership of large farms or corporations. The old buildings on these properties have fallen into disrepair or, in some cases, collapsed. On many of these farms, older buildings have been razed with little regard to their historic significance. Original farm dwellings have been replaced by modern homes, and many of the agricultural support buildings have been removed and either not replaced or replaced with modern metal buildings. Without incentives, such as rehabilitation tax credits, historic agricultural buildings are likely to be lost at an increasing rate as the vacant buildings become too damaged to repair or collapse from exposure to the elements.

Southampton County does recognize this downward trend in the 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 the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan, other steps should be taken to reward landowners who manage to keep their properties in agricultural production in the effort to maintain the rural landscape and its historic structures, especially in northern Southampton County. The exact steps and processes that the county might use for that purpose already exist as part of the county's land use laws and regulations.

At the state level, Virginia has a goal introduced by Governor Timothy Kaine to conserve 400,000 acres by 2010. The Virginia Office of Farmland Preservation has funds to provide matching grants to certified local Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs. Additionally, The Office of Farmland Preservation provides technical assistance to these certified programs and has published a guide on PDR programs entitled, A Model Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program for Virginia. The Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Office of Land Preservation has a land conservation program that includes agricultural properties. They also have several publications on the essentials of land conversation, the overview of different state programs, and the tax benefits of land conservation. Grants are available through the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has established farms as a land conservation priority and operates Wetland Conservation, Small Game and Quail Habitat Cost-Share and Farm Habitat funding programs. The Virginia Department of Forestry manages the Forest Legacy Program, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation operates Open Space Land Preservation Trust Fund.

On a federal level, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has summarized various funding programs that may be used for historic preservation. The US Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program matches up to fifty percent of fair-market value to acquire conservation easements. The Department of Housing and Urban Development Rural Housing and Economic Development grants support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas, including the preparation of plans and architectural drawings; acquisition of land and buildings; provision of infrastructure; purchase of materials; construction; application of innovative construction methods; provision of financial assistance to homeowners, businesses, and developers; and the establishment of revolving loan funds. With Farm Ownership Loans from the Farm Service Agency, farmers can purchase, repair, or construct buildings and other fixtures, purchase farmland, and promote soil and water conservation. The Community Facilities Loans and Grants of the Rural Housing Service assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas, including improvement and enlargement of existing facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. The Department of Agriculture Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) Initiative program provides financial assistance to distressed rural communities to open new businesses, rehabilitate and build housing, and undertake other economic revitalization projects through grants and tax incentives. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service Intermediary Relending Program provides loans to intermediaries to disburse again for projects involving community development or business development in rural areas. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service provides Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants to electric and telephone utilities, which, in turn, re-lend the funds to private or public organizations. Funds can be used for economic development projects in rural communities, including purchase of buildings and development of community infrastructure and facilities. The American Farmland Trust, a non-profit organization, provides additional guidance of farmland preservation.

A recommendation to address the preservation of rural historic properties would be for Southampton County to adopt a historic conservation zone in areas of the county where there are concentrations of historic buildings, agricultural or otherwise. The zones would not constitute historic districts but rather would be areas where there are older buildings with modern structures which deserve some form of recognition and protection. On the basis of the data available, the zones could include: 1) properties previously recorded; 2) properties recorded during the present survey; and 3) properties that were observed in the field and circled on USGS Topographic maps, but not recorded on survey forms (a component of the present survey). Other measures that might be incorporated into county plans could be a commitment (through an ordinance) for the protection of archeological sites and historic buildings during site plan/zoning review processes that would require developers to conduct cultural resource identification surveys.

4.8.2 National Register of Historic Places

The placement of historic agricultural buildings on the National Register of Historic Places provides some protection against adverse effects from undertakings of the federal government and its licensees as well as state-funded undertakings. Many agricultural properties in Southampton County are likely to be found eligible for the National and Virginia Registers as individual properties. Establishing a number of Rural Historic Districts would be an efficient way of listing these properties on the National Register. Listing on the National Register does not restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of private historic property; nor does listing lead automatically to historic district zoning; nor does listing force federal, state, local or private projects to be stopped; nor does listing guarantee that grant funds will be available for all significant historic properties.

Currently, Southampton County has ten properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In past decades, nominations have been written for the Courtland Historic District, a Nat Turner Revolt Historic District, and the Allen's Quarter/Sunbeam Historic District; other potential districts include the many small towns and villages throughout the County and large areas of rural historic districts. Additional individual properties are possible as well. An increase in the number of properties listed on the National Register is recommended.

Southampton County should encourage National Register listings through education. For the proposed districts that already have had nominations drafted, property owners may have opposed the listing due to misconceptions about National Register listing. Other property owners may be interested in listing their properties but do not know how. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has a publication called *Virginia's Historical Registers: A Guide for Property Owners* that might be used as a tool to inform property owners. Public meetings and/or workshops may be another way to educate the community.

With listing on the National Register, individually or as a contributing part of a National Register Historic District, property owners can take advantage of the State and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Programs. The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program is one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective community revitalization programs. The program fosters private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings and promotes economic revitalization. The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives are available for buildings that are National Historic Landmarks, that are listed in the National Register, and that contribute to National Register Historic Districts and certain local historic districts. Properties must be income-producing and must be rehabilitated according to standards set by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has a similar tax incentive program for State tax credits available for owner-occupied, as well as income-producing buildings. Eligible buildings also include those that are listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and those that have been certified as eligible by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

4.8.3 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. Since the format of the comprehensive plan uses

separate subject areas as “elements,” this would be an ideal way to incorporate a historic preservation component into the existing plan. Among objectives to be included in this plan should be:

1. To 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

4.8.4 Additional Financial Incentives for Historic Preservation

As already discussed, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government have a variety of financial incentive programs in place that help encourage preservation and land conservation. These are incentives that should be explored further by the county in order to encourage preservation of endangered properties and landscapes. Additionally, local real estate tax abatements should also be considered for historic property restoration.

4.8.5 Certified Local Government and Historic Preservation Ordinance

The county should consider developing a historic preservation ordinance that would allow for the designation of significant sites. This should provide guidance and an architectural review board to evaluate requests for modification, re-location, development, demolition, etc. of historically significant properties. One of the county’s land use objectives is to “preserve, protect, and enhance cultural, environmental, and historic areas,” and this recommendation would be in keeping with that objective.

Through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, local governments may become partners with the VDHR and the National Park Service under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. As CLGs, local governments benefit from technical assistance, training, and information from the VDHR and from the National Park Service; and they can play a more active role in the Virginia Landmark Register and National Register process. CLGs are eligible to apply for federal matching grants from Virginia’s CLG fund, established in the mid-1980s. There are now thirty-one CLGs in Virginia.

To become a CLG, Southampton County must enact a historic preservation ordinance and create a review board to administer it, among other requirements. The CLG designation specifies certain specialties to be represented on the review board or available to assist the review board as needed. Members of the review board would include county citizens, many of whom would be chosen because they exhibit various skills and specialize in certain fields, such as architecture, history or architectural history.

4.8.6 Local History Center and Historic Study Topics

Southampton County should allocate or seek funds to create and maintain a historical archive that is open to the public at a location such as the Rawls Library and Museum. Historic photographs of the county, when available, should be stored there, and solicitations should be made to local citizens for donating such materials. In addition, the agricultural community, the Native American and the African American communities have special needs for historical studies as a means of ensuring that their contributions to Southampton County are

recognized and preserved. Especially important for both of those communities would be an active oral history program.

4.8.7 Geographic Information System (GIS)

Southampton County's GIS system should be updated to show the location of all inventoried historic architectural and archeological 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.

4.8.8 Archaeological Data Base

There have been a significant number of archeological sites identified in Southampton 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 been no systematic archeological assessment conducted in the county except in areas of potential development, such as the Norfolk Water Pipeline. While some parts of the county have been developed, there are extensive tracts of land, especially along rivers and streams that have a high potential for important archeological sites, ranging from Paleo-Indian sites to Woodland Period fortified villages. The county should undertake the preparation of an archeological assessment that identifies the area of high archeological potential. Resulting 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, including the protection of the county's data from unauthorized use by relic collectors.

The following suggests four principal goals for the identification and protection of archeological resources in Southampton County:

1. Identify areas of the county where archeological resources are most likely to exist;
2. Describe anticipated resources and assess their potential significance;
3. Assess the integrity of the archeological data base (how reliable is the data available and how complete is the inventory); and
4. Suggest research priorities that will provide the data needed to formulate archeologically sensitive management strategies.

4.8.9 Additional Documentation of Historic Resources

Southampton County has several hundred properties that are inventoried with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. However, many of these were surveyed in 1973, over thirty years ago, so the listed condition of these resources is likely to have changed. A re-survey of these properties is recommended.

Many other inventoried properties in Southampton County are 1967 transcriptions of the 1930s Works Progress Administration (WPA) Virginia Historical Inventory Survey. The Virginia Historical Inventory has now been digitalized and is available through the website of the Library of Virginia. The inventoried properties online include some architectural description, archival research, photographs, a 1930s road map generally marking the site location, and verbal descriptions of the site locations. This is usually enough information to be able to identify if a building is still standing. The 1967 transcription of these files do not include the photographs and the location, so these properties have no mapped location on the GIS portion of VDHR's Data Sharing System. The WPA survey concentrated on eighteenth and nineteenth structures, and a survey to re-identify these resources so that they can be mapped in DSS and so that their destruction or continued existence is known will provide a more accurate picture of the historic architectural resources of Southampton County. The WPA survey for Southampton County includes twenty-four cemeteries, six churches, one commercial building, three historic sites, seven mills, two taverns, and several hundred dwellings.

Because Southampton County has so many vacant buildings, an effort to document these buildings before they are further neglected would be helpful to future historians. At a minimum, documentation should include photography and mapping. Measured drawings would be helpful, and the activities of a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) team or a field methods class of architectural history students would encourage interest in historic buildings throughout the county.

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Appendix A – List of Properties in Southampton County surveyed by The Ottery Group, Inc.

Basic Inventory List- Southampton County			
DHR ID #	Name of Property	Address	USGS Quad
087-0030	Belmont	19461 Buckhorn Quarter	Capron
087-0044	Person Thomas House	11521 Old Belfield Road	Drewryville
087-0083	Richard Porter House	291 Porter House Road	Capron
087-0106	Catslide House	16578 Black Creek Road	Sedley
087-0115	White House	Vicksville Road	Vicksville
087-0117	Sunnyside	32044 Monroe Road	Sunbeam
087-5036	William Drewry House	Cedar View Road	Drewryville
087-5092	Sarah Vick House	Belfield Road	Capron
087-5193	John Ivy Turner House*	17413 Carys Bridge Road	Sebrell
087-5206	William Mahone House	Bethel Road	Franklin
087-5270	John W. Whitfield House	14584 Cottage Hill Road	Sedley
087-5378	Simmons Home Farm	18037 Cary's Bridge Road	Sebrell
087-5417	Pope Family Farm	27124 Meherrin Road	Capron
087-5440	Peter Edwards House	15472 Peter Edwards House	Capron
087-5448	Captain Pretlow House*	37165 Pretlow Drive	Raynor
087-5509	Henley Pretlow House*	4071 Proctor's Bridge Road	Raynor
087-5512	David E. Joyner House	18334 Burdette Church Road	Sedley
087-5513	Joseph Beauregard Joyner Store	Burdette Road	Sedley
087-5514	House, 18228 Line Pine Road	18228 Line Pine Road	Sedley
087-5515	House, Bethel Road	Bethel Road	Sedley
087-5517	Emma Jackson Davis Hancock House*	Cottage Hill Road	Sedley
087-5518	Gus' House	Proctor's Bridge Road	Raynor
087-5519	House, Meherrin Road	Meherrin Road	Boykins
201-0001	Mahone Tavern*	22341 Main Street	Courtland
201-0002	Rochelle House*	22371 Main Street	Courtland
201-5003	Hart's Tavern*	22345 Main Street	Courtland

* Surveyed at the intensive level