

# CHESAPEAKE HISTORIC STRUCTURES



Chesapeake, Virginia

## ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This brochure is presented by the Norfolk County Historical Society through a grant by the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission. It is a register of historic structures located in Chesapeake, Virginia. Each year the structures selected will continue to carry a designated number which will be indicated by a plaque attached on or near the structure. Additional noteworthy structures in Chesapeake will be added to the register. Chesapeake has many historic homes and buildings which should be preserved for future generations.

The Norfolk County Historical Society thanks the many people who have helped in the undertaking of this project. Special thanks go to Landmarks Committee member Jean-Marie Eagler for her work in writing and taking photographs for this brochure. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the owners of the property shown in this register.

We invite interested persons to contact the Norfolk County Historical Society with names of homes or structures of merit that might be considered for future designation as a Chesapeake Historic Structure.

The material contained in this brochure is subject to revision as further research is completed.

Each of the structures included is private property and is not open to the public.

### Historic Landmarks Committee, 1988-1989

Mrs. Jean-Marie Eagler  
Mrs. Anna L. Jones  
Mr. M. M. Riley  
Mr. Elmer W. Sawyer, Jr.  
Mrs. Harriett D. White



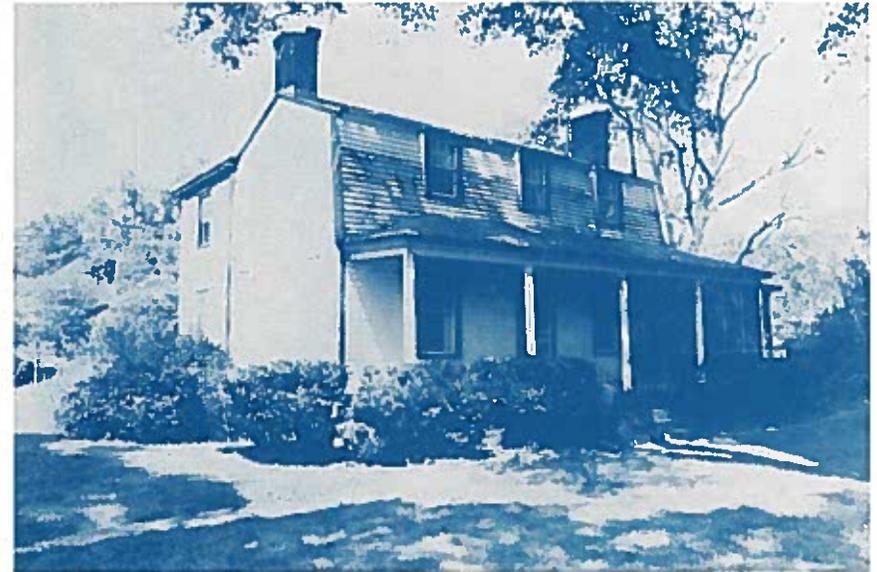
## 1. THE BUTT-NICHOLAS HOUSE c. 1792

Constructed of juniper and heart pine, the Butt-Nicholas House is located in southern Chesapeake near the Northwest Radio Station. Title records indicate the house was built by Malachi Butt after he purchased the land from the Etheridge heirs in 1790, 1791, and 1797.

The house, called a "story and a half," was designed to avoid the high taxes imposed on two-story structures during the period it was constructed. The front of the home, both upstairs and downstairs, is essentially in the original condition.

The home has been enlarged at least twice. In 1918, the main house was enlarged in the rear; an additional wing added in the 1930s. It is not known when the porches were built.

The great-great-grandfather of the present owner, G. C. Nicholas, Jr. is supposed to have buried the family silver somewhere on the property during the Civil War. Unfortunately, he was the only one who knew its location and died before it could be found.



## 2. "ROSEVILLE" THE PORTLOCK-GIBSON HOUSE c. 1798

Nathaniel Portlock (1779-1840) owned land that adjoined this property and it is assumed that he built this house before he erected another one close by. The name "Roseville" was mentioned in the Last Will and Testament of Portlock's son, Tapley (1809-1862).

Located in the Portlock section of Chesapeake, Roseville was purchased by Benjamin F. Gibson with approximately 100 acres of land in 1884. Gibson's granddaughter, Mrs. Elmo Spencer, is the present owner of the home. Family history notes that the date, "1798," was built into the brick chimney which has since been covered over with stucco.

The house has been enlarged several times. Originally, the front roof and entry were covered with wooden shingles. These were removed by Gibson when he added the front porch around 1910. It is not known when the extension to the rear of the home was added.

The Portlock-Gibson cemetery is located on the property behind the home. There are several outbuildings still standing, however, none perhaps as old as the house.



### 3. LISLE A. LINDSAY, SR. HOUSE c. 1850

This wooden frame house, complete with furnishings, was purchased by Mr. Ambrose Harvey Lindsay from the Whidbee estate around 1858. He and his bride lived there approximately three years.

Located in the Grassfield area, the original hand-carved woodwork abounds throughout the home today. Even the upstairs floors are of the original wood. The first roof—hand-rived shingles fastened down with handmade nails—has since been covered by a tin roof. The property is presently owned and occupied by Mrs. L. A. Lindsay, Sr.

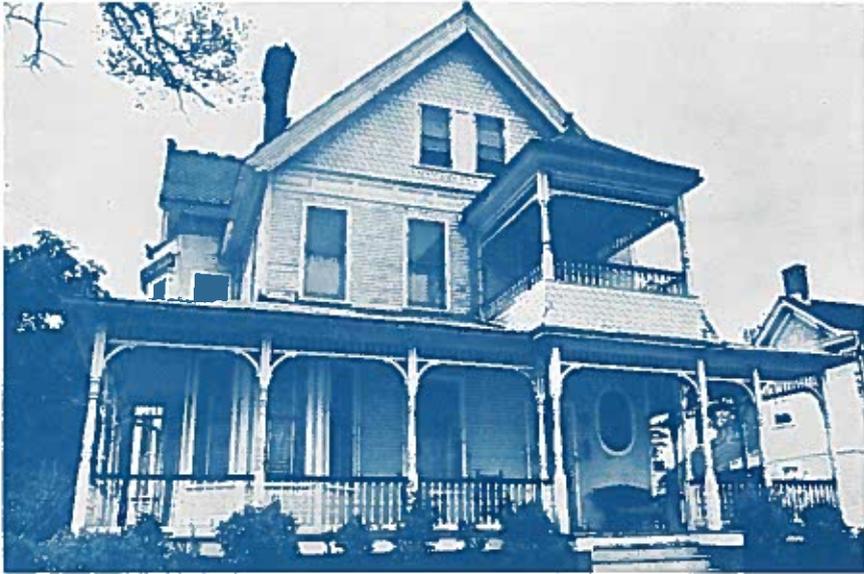


### 4. THE DOUGHTY-HATHAWAY HOUSE c. 1792

The Doughty-Hathaway House is a two-story structure that has a gambrel roof with dormers. The property also included outbuildings such as the slaves quarters and the kitchen. Located on South Battlefield Boulevard, it stands on a tract of land that was split by the dividing line between the colonies when surveyed in 1728. Jacob Doughty purchased the property from Benjamin Hodges in 1791, and had the present house built connecting to the older Hodges home. Doughty's tombstone stood in the yard until recent times.

The Doughty family sold it to Andrew Bate in 1809 and was purchased by Wilson Corprew in 1822 who left the house to his only heir, Elizabeth, who married Cornelius B. Riddick. The Civil War wrecked the considerable estate and the property was sold in 1883 to W. C. Mercer of Currituck.

The structure was known as "C. B. Riddick's Northwest Farm" in a map accompanying the deed when the property was sold in 1893 to Nathaniel Hathaway and his grandson, N. H. Sanderson, who made extensive repairs to the house in the 1950s. Today, it is owned by D. E. Kirby, who is carefully restoring the home to its original grandeur.



## 5. THE LANE HOUSE c. 1895

The Lane House, built in 1895 by W. H. Lane, is a beautiful example of Victorian architecture, so popular around the turn of the century. The two-story frame structure includes the porches and gingerbread trim associated with this style of architecture.

Located in the South Norfolk Borough of Chesapeake, the house has remained in the Lane family and the interior and exterior style has been kept as original as possible. Interesting features inside the home include the staircase in the entry hallway and the dark woodwork.



## 6. ADAMS-CARSON HOUSE c. 1819

Located just off North Battlefield Boulevard in the vicinity of the main Post Office, the Adams-Carson House is a "story and a half" frame building with clapboarding and brickwork in the American Bond pattern. The gambrel roof is shingled.

A new apartment project required that this house be moved and the developer offered the house to anyone who would move it. Due to extensive termite damage, moving was impossible and the house was demolished in 1986.



### 7. OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH c. 1770

According to tradition, Oak Grove Church began in 1770 when friends and relatives met in the home of a Mr. Cutherell who lived near Great Bridge. Area Methodists then purchased land to build a church in 1804. It is thought that this meeting house was moved on rollers approximately one mile to the present Oak Grove site on North Battlefield Boulevard around 1843.

The present structure was built in 1852 and was a larger, more substantial building than the previous one. Specific building instructions for the church were given to the contractor by the church building committee including: a length of 50 feet and width of 40 feet; two folding doors on the front end, and a well-secured roof.

In 1960, the facilities and grounds were remodeled giving the church the appearance it has today.



### 8. "PINETTA" THE RICHARD MURRAY HOUSE c. 1790

"Pinetta," a brick colonial home was built on 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres purchased by Isaac Murray from John Whitehurst in 1786. It appears that Murray built a house for each of his sons; this one for son, Richard. The Murray family had lived in the immediate area since the late 1640s.

At that time, the main road from Ferry Point to Kemps Landing (called Providence Road today) was the south line of this parcel of land. During the Colonial Days, small vessels brought goods directly to a wharf located on the property. "Pinetta" includes an outbuilding which may have been part of the old slave quarters.

The columned front porch is not original and the roof lines have been altered by extending the overhang throughout rather than just over the dormer windows. It is not known when or by whom the name "Pinetta" was given to the property, and subsequent ownership has not been traced. Today, "Pinetta" is owned by Mr. Reginald B. Frazier.



## 9. THE LATIMER HOLSTEAD HOUSE c. 1785

Located near the St. Brides section of Chesapeake, the Latimer Holstead House is a one and one-half story gambrel-roofed structure. The original ownership, however, of this home has not been agreed upon by local researchers.

One theory has the house built by Robert Butt or his son. Another theory, put forth by the present owners, say the house was built by Latimer Holstead who purchased the land in 1785 from Butt's daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Samuel Holstead. Still, no house was mentioned in the deed conveying the land to Latimer Holstead. This theory would have the house built between 1785 and 1790.

Unique features of this home include five fireplaces, internal chimneys and upstairs side windows—apparently used to ventilate the closets. The original pine plank floors are still in place in the living room and upstairs rooms. The wainscoting is of original wood. The property is owned by Judge and Mrs. William L. Forbes.



## 10. THE TRENT HOUSE c. 1859

The Trent House is constructed with three stories above a full ground-level basement. Wooden pegs hold together hand-hewn sills and rafters. The area between twin chimneys on the north side of the house is bricked up, providing storage space for the upstairs rooms. Small windows admit light and ventilation for closets. The two main rooms on the first floor contain the original random width pine floors and fireplace mantles.

It is said that the Trent House was built in Great Bridge and moved to the Deep Creek area of Chesapeake by way of the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal prior to the War Between the States. During that time, the structure was used as a hospital by Union troops. The present owner is Mr. Bryan Scott.



11. "POPLAR HILL"  
c. 1807

Poplar Hill is a three-storied brick structure above an English-style basement located in the Churchland area. The woodwork in the entire house is original except for one corner in the living room which burned in 1941. The floors in the rooms upstairs and the windows on the third floor are also original.

Fireplaces with Adams' mantles are located in every room on the first and second floors. There is also a fireplace in the attic and one in the basement. During some repair work on one of the chimneys, bricks were uncovered bearing the name of John Wright and the date, 1807. The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Johnson.



12. GLEMMING FARM  
c. 1872

Glemming Farm is located on the headwaters of the Elizabeth River's Western Branch and was once an active transportation center for goods produced in the area.

The house is reputed to have been built around 1872 by J. W. Stowe. It is framed with full rough-cut 4 x 4-inch timbers which extend two full stories on each corner and alongside the windows and doors. Much of the framing, random-width flooring and trim is constructed of cypress wood. Other original details include a mahogany banister rail, elaborate newel posts and ballustrades.

There are 38 windows in the structure located for full benefit of cross-ventilation during the summers. Brick foundations show the location of a detached kitchen behind the house. Glemming Farm is the property of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Broyles.



### 13. GOOD HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH c. 1848

Good Hope United Methodist Church, which is located on a two acre parcel near the Burnt House Bridge, has been used as a place of worship for more than 140 years. It was deeded August, 1848 by Laban N. Hall and Israel Foreman, Jr., for the sum of one dollar each to the Trustees for the Methodist Protestant Church of Goodhope: John F. Foreman, Washington Hall, Laban N. Hall and Israel Foreman. Still, another early record dated that same year spoke of "The Good Hope Methodist Protestant Society" with a membership of 111 persons, 21 years of age or over.

Around 1871, the original smaller church was moved back and the present structure was erected. In 1902, the interior of the church was redecorated and the vestibule and steeple were added.

Good Hope United Methodist Church is located on Benefit Road in the Benefit Community of Chesapeake.



### 14. JOLLIFF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH c. 1798

Jolliff United Methodist Church is located on Jolliff Road in the Western Branch section of Chesapeake. The Jolliff Society, which later became known as "Jolliffs Meeting House," was formed by Robert Williams who came to Norfolk in 1772 to become pastor of the Portsmouth Methodist Society. It is probable that a cabin stood on the site as early as 1798.

Bishop Francis Asbury mentioned Jolliff Church in his journal on February 11, 1805. His notes said he spoke at the chapel "on an appropriate text from Isaiah the 59th Chapter, the house is not nearly large enough."

The present structure was constructed around 1850 and subsequently remodeled in 1926. A balcony was removed and two side doors were replaced by windows. One large door was then placed in the center.



15. "BEECHWOOD"  
c. 1850

"Beechwood," a three-storied structure, was built by the Stewart family who purchased the land from Littleton Waller Tazewell of Norfolk. Tazewell, who was elected governor of Virginia in 1834, apparently procured the land through a bankruptcy case in 1818 from a Mr. Sexton who had been jailed for debts owed.

This home is located in the Wallaceton section of southern Chesapeake. Inside, a hall runs the length of the lower level with two rooms on each side. The other two floors contain two large rooms and one small one. The original flooring still exists in the main rooms on the second and third levels. Each room of the ten-room structure contains a fireplace. "Beechwood" is owned by the heirs of Mrs. Jack Lister, Miss Elizabeth Stewart, and Mr. Jack Cartwright.



16. "ELM LAWN"  
c. 1888

Located in the South Norfolk section of Chesapeake, this home was built in 1888 by E.M. Tilley who owned and operated a lumber company. The name "Elm Lawn" comes from the number of elm trees found on the property.

The exterior of the three-story structure is weatherboard. Above the second story window, continuing up to the eaves are red heart shingles. Birdseye maple line the entrance hall, and the staircase is of curly pine.

A dumb waiter connects the dining room with the kitchen located in the basement. An early intercom system made communication possible throughout the house.

A carriage house and barn, located in the rear of the house, kept riding horses and a sleigh, which is now on display at the Chrysler Museum. "Elm Lawn" is presently owned by Mrs. Thelma Lee Taylor.



17. "GREAT OAKS"  
c. 1858

Located in the Fentress section of Chesapeake, "Great Oaks" is constructed of clapboard with eight-inch heart of pine floors. Aluminum siding covers the clapboard today, with the last owner replacing most of the slate roof with a composition one.

The house consists of a living room, entrance hall, dining room, library, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a music room. When the house was built, the dining room was a breezeway, connecting the front part of the house with the kitchen. The woodwork, banisters, floors, etc. are all original.

Unique features of this house include high ceilings, picture molding, crystal chandeliers and a black marble fireplace. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Revell.



18. "CHERRY MANOR"  
c. 1801

This three-story farm house located on George Washington Highway in the Deep Creek section of Chesapeake, often called "The Moore Place," stands on a lot which was once part of a large Southern plantation. This land was parceled off to Malachi Cherry who built the main part of the house in 1801.

The beams in the attic above the third floor are put together with wooden pegs. Floors are constructed of wide, random-width yellow pine planks. There are four fireplaces. The kitchen, believed to have been added in the late 1860s, is unique since for safety reasons they were detached from the main house.

Dependencies located at the rear include a carriage house with three bays and a smoke or ice house. The property today is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Powell, Jr.