

Chesapeake
Historic
Structures

Chesapeake, Virginia

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This brochure is presented by the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission with the cooperation of the Bicentennial Commission and the Chesapeake Chamber of Commerce. It is a Register of Historic Structures located in Chesapeake, Virginia. Each year the structures selected will continue to carry the 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 each year. Chesapeake has many historic homes and buildings which should be preserved for future generations.

The Commission thanks the many people who have helped in the undertaking of this project. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the owners of the property shown in this Register.

We invite interested persons to contact the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission 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 not open to the public.



1. THE NICHOLAS FARM

c. 1680

This property, owned by Mr. G. C. Nicholas, is said to have been bequeathed to the youngest child in each generation. The house is constructed of juniper, heart pine, and cedar, and is said to have been built by a Nicholas ancestor who originally came from England. The bricks are supposed to have been imported from England. The front chimney is original. The house is called a "story and a half," a design used to avoid the high taxes imposed on two-story structures during the period it was constructed.

The great grandfather of the present owner is supposed to have buried the family silver during the Civil War. He was the only one who knew its location and he died before it could be retrieved.

This structure is located in southern Chesapeake near the Northwest Radio Station.



2. B. F. GIBSON HOME

c. 1798

The original Portlock home, located in the Portlock section of Chesapeake, was purchased by Benjamin F. Gibson with approximately 100 acres of land in 1884. Mrs. Gibson told her granddaughter, the present owner Mrs. Elmo Spencer, that the date 1798 was built into the brick chimney — since covered over with stucco. The Portlock-Gibson family cemetery is located in the rear of the yard. Originally the front roof and entry were covered with wooden shingles. These were removed by Mr. Gibson when he added the front porch sometime before 1910. Mrs. Spencer recalls how the family had to carry water several blocks from a spring in front of the old Portlock School site until Mr. Gibson took a branch from a peach tree and, using it as a divining rod, located a water supply in the back yard.



3. LISLE A. LINDSAY, SR. HOME

c. 1850

Mr. Ambrose Harvey Lindsay brought this house complete with furnishings from the Whidbee estate around 1858. Mr. Lindsay lived in the house with his bride for about three years.

The wooden frame house, located in the Grassfield area, still has the original hand-carved woodwork throughout. The upstairs floors are still the original wood. The original roof of hand-hewn shingles fastened down with hand-made nails has since been covered by a tin roof. The property is now owned and occupied by Mrs. L. A. Lindsay, Sr.



4. THE HATHAWAY HOUSE

c. 1771

The Hathaway House, located on South Battlefield Boulevard, is the property of N. H. Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson's grandfather purchased the farm from a relative, William C. Mercer, in 1890. The property consisted of the house with outbuildings such as the slave quarters and kitchen. A map accompanying the deed at the time of the sale of the property is titled "C. B. Riddick's Northwest Farm." Further research has traced this property back to a Mr. Dowdy in 1791.

The structure has a gambrel roof with dormers. The interior woodwork is the original. Some local historians think this structure may have been part of a Girls' Seminary in Currituck County, N.C. before the state boundaries were changed. This has not been substantiated by records.

Among the legends surrounding the house is one concerning the ghost of a gentlemen who fell to his death from an upstairs floor. His body is said to have been buried in a graveyard in back of the house, but his ghost is said to come back to visit the scene of his death.



5. THE LANE HOUSE

c. 1895

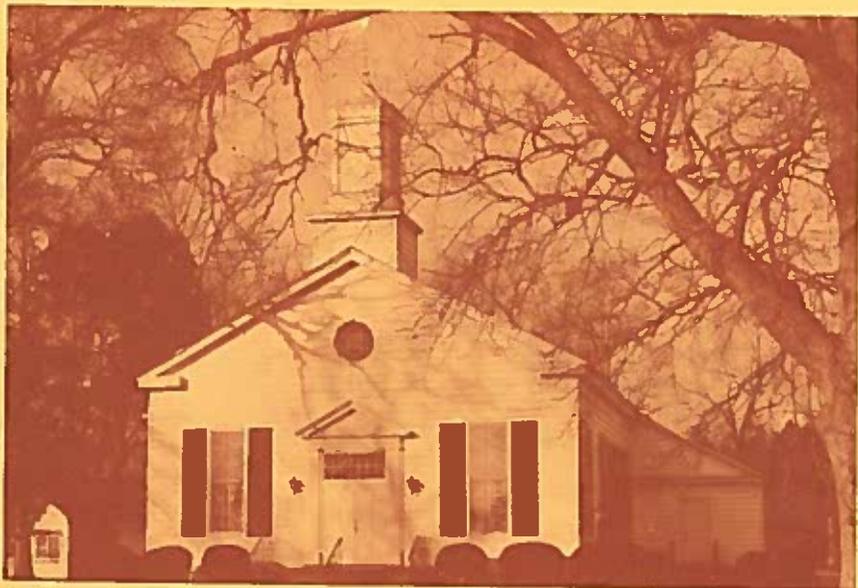
The Lane House, located in the South Norfolk Borough, is a beautiful example of Victorian architecture, so popular around the turn of the century. The two-story frame structure was built in 1895 by Mr. W. H. Lane and includes the porches and gingerbreading associated with this style of architecture. The house has remained in the Lane family and has been kept in its original style inside and out as far as possible. The staircase in the entry hallway and the dark woodwork are interesting features inside the house.



6. ADAMS-CARSON HOUSE

c. 1819

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



7. OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

c. 1770

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

The present structure was built in 1852, a larger and more substantial building than the old building. The contractor was given specific instructions by the church building committee. These included a length of fifty feet and a width of forty feet, two folding doors on the front end, and a well secured roof.

In 1960 the facilities and grounds were remodeled with the structure being given the appearance it has today.



8. PINETTA

c. 1790

Pinetta, located off Providence Road and originally owned by one of four Murray brothers, is a two-story brick colonial home with an outbuilding still standing which may have been part of the old slave quarters. The bricks used in the house were brought from England as ballast for cargo ships. Many of the bricks bear the date 1790. This date is also carved in the chimney of the house.

The original property consisted of 711 acres, some of which later became part of Greenbrier Farms. In colonial days ships brought goods directly to a wharf located on the property.

Pinetta is owned by the A. M. Newtons.



9. LATIMER HOLSTEAD HOUSE

c. 1785

The original ownership of this one and a half story gambrel-roofed structure located near the St. Brides section of Chesapeake has not been agreed upon by local researchers. One theory has the house built by Robert Butt or his son. Another, put forth by the present owner, says the house was built by Latimer Holstead who purchased the land in 1785 from Samuel and Elizabeth Holstead (Elizabeth was the daughter of Robert Butt.) No house was mentioned in the deed conveying the land to Mr. L. Holstead. This theory would have the house built between 1785 and 1790.

Unique features include internal chimneys and upstairs side windows apparently used to ventilate closets. The original pine plank floors are still in place in the living room and upstairs rooms. The wainscoting is original wood also. The house contains five fireplaces.

The property is now owned by Judge and Mrs. William L. Forbes.



10. TRENT HOUSE

c. 1859

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 war the structure was used as a hospital by Union troops.

The house is constructed with three stories above a full ground-level basement. Wooden pegs hold together hand-hewn sills and rafters. The original random width pine floors remain in the two main rooms on the first floor. These rooms also contain the original fireplace mantles.

The area between twin chimneys on the north side of the house is bricked up and provides a storage space for the upstairs rooms. Small windows admit light and ventilation for closets.



11. POPLAR HILL

c. 1807

The three-storied brick structure above an English style basement is located in the Churchland area, the property of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Johnson. The woodwork in the entire house is original except for one corner in the living room which burned in 1941. There is a fireplace in every room on the first and second floors with Adams' mantles. There is also a fireplace in the attic and one in the basement.

The floors in the upstairs rooms are original as are the windows on the third floor. During some repair work on one of the chimneys, bricks were uncovered bearing the name of John Wright and the date 1807.



12. GLEMMING FARM

c. 1872

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

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

There are thirty-eight 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

The present site of Good Hope United Methodist Church has been used as a place of worship for more than 120 years. Early records dated August, 1848, speak of "The Good Hope Methodist Protestant Society" with a membership of 111 persons 21 years of age or over.

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

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



14. JOLLIFF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

c. 1798

The Jolliff Society which 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. Bishop Francis Asbury made mention of Jolliff Church in his Journal on February 11, 1805, in noting he spoke at Jolliff Chapel "on an appropriate text from Isaiah the 59th Chapter, the house is not nearly large enough."

It is probable that a cabin stood on the site as early as 1798. The present structure was constructed around 1850 and was remodeled in 1926. A balcony was removed and two side doors were replaced by windows. One large door was placed in the center.

Jolliff United Methodist Church is located on Jolliff Road in the Western Branch section of Chesapeake.



15. BEECHWOOD

c. 1850

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

The original flooring is still in place in the main rooms on the second and third levels. A hall runs the length of the lower level with two rooms on either side. The other two floors have two large and one small room each. There is a fireplace in every room of the ten-room structure.

Beechwood, located in the Wallaceton section of southern Chesapeake, is owned by Mrs. Jack Lister, Miss Elizabeth Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cartwright.