

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 12/5/7
NRHP 2/14/8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Hermitage
other names/site number VA DHR ID: 134-0016

2. Location

street & number 4200 Hermitage not for publication N/A
city or town Virginia Beach vicinity _____
state Virginia code _____ county Virginia Beach (Ind) code 810 zip code 23455

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 1/9/2008
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- _____ removed from the National Register
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) NA

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Postmedieval English

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof Shake

walls Wood

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance c. 1700 - 1940

Significant Dates 1635 – original grant of land; 1699 – division of land; c. 1700 – early frame house; c. 1800 – additions to current building; 1805 – underground cistern; 1820 – addition; 1940 – modern addition; 1955 – first development in Princess Anne County (Thoroughgood)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # 1958
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Library of Virginia; Princess Anne County Records (Deed books, tax and marriage records)

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreeage of Property 1.6 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	400174	5916926

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title John E. Littel

organization _____ date September 21, 2007

street & number 4200 Hermitage telephone (757) 460-4051

city or town Virginia Beach state VA zip code 23455

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name John & Marianne Littel

street & number 4200 Hermitage Road telephone 757-460-4051

city or town Virginia Beach state VA zip code 23455

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Hermitage
Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

Virginia

Section 7 Page 1

Summary Description

Located across the inlet from the Adam Thoroughgood¹ House, The Hermitage is a one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame house constructed in three stages. Elements for the first four-bay portion are believed to date from as early as 1699, when John Thoroughgood built a house on his portion of Adam Thoroughgood's "Grand Patent." The second portion was constructed by the Moseley Family c. 1820, doubling the size of the dwelling and adding federal-style crown molding and recessed panel wainscoting throughout the house, as well as a central passage. Finally, in 1940, the final portion was added, including indoor plumbing and a kitchen. There are three outbuildings, as well as a large subterranean brick cistern, now part of the basement to the house. The *Reconnaissance Level Phase I Architectural Survey Report* (Frazier Associates) completed in 1992 cites these outbuildings as the only antebellum outbuildings to survive in Virginia Beach.² The property remained a working farm until the mid-1950s, when it became the basis for the County's first modern development (Thoroughgood). The Hermitage is one of the few examples of Colonial architecture extant in Virginia Beach.

Detailed Description and Site

The Hermitage, located in the center of the modern Thoroughgood development, is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame farmhouse constructed in three stages. It is located approximately fifty yards from the northeastern tip of the Thoroughgood Cove off the Western Branch of the Lynnhaven River. The property, which comprises a single dwelling and three associated outbuildings (smokehouse, dairy/spring house and garage), was a working farm until 1954, when owner James Collier combined The Hermitage farm with the Bayville and Thoroughgood farms to develop the first modern residential neighborhood in Princess Anne County (now Virginia Beach).

The original property extended west for one-and-a-half miles to Pleasure House Road, a thoroughfare that dates back to the seventeenth century. Until the development of the property in 1954, the mile-and-a-half entrance was lined with cedar trees, with the final half mile lined as well by lilacs. Today, the property retains a number of large old cedar and black walnut trees, as well as a magnificent old dogwood. Large hollies, boxwood and other shrubs surround the house. At least two trees are believed to be older than 200 years. A master plan for restoration and a period garden was designed by Gordon Chappell, landscape architect at Colonial Williamsburg in 2003.

The property is listed as an archaeological site by the City of Virginia Beach. Numerous pieces of glass, pottery and brick have been found when digging. Staff from Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary have visited the site in 1970s and mid-1980s.

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**The Hermitage
Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

Virginia

Section 7 Page 2

Main Building - Exterior

The main resource on the property is a single dwelling, which rests on a foundation of cut timber and brick piers, modified c. 1820 to a full brick foundation. The current façade of the dwelling is an unusual seven-bay design with central entrance. The exterior walls are beaded wood weatherboard. Windows are double-hung, wood sash, nine-over-six on the first floor and six-over-six on the second floor. There are three dormers on the front (west) side, two on the east side and six on the 1940 addition (east). All the windows, except those in the dormers, have c. 1800-1830 shutters with hardware. Many of the window panes are original. There are double exterior-end chimneys on both the north and south ends of the house. The north chimneys are common bond brickwork with full headers every fourth course. Those on the c. 1820 south end are two different sizes and have common bond brickwork with full headers every eighth course. The gable roof is covered in cedar shakes.

The first four-bay portion of the house is believed to have been completed c. 1700 and is listed in deed books by the mid-1700s. It consists of one room over two, with two chimneys on the northern end. There is an original window next to what was the front door, but now fronts into the c. 1820 hallway. More than likely, a porch ran the length of the southern end and a small hallway would have connected the original two rooms and the porch. The original front façade is now an interior wall of the hallway with the c. 1820 portion of the house.

Sometime between 1805 and 1810, a subterranean brick cistern was added that has since been worked into the brick foundation. Added to the east corner of the house, it has granite steps, and parts of an earlier chimney in its walls.

The second portion of the house, constructed c. 1820, mirrors the west elevation, three-bay window part of the original, creating an unusual, seven-bay, double pile, central passage plan. The front entry is currently centered along the west elevation between the sets of windows. At some point in the past 50 years, a portico built over the front door as part of the 1820 construction was removed. The four paneled front and rear doors are original, as is a side door entry between the two northern chimneys.

A screened porch along the south end was added around 1930, and in 1940, the final addition was built on the east side of the house. This added a kitchen, three baths, a maid's room and an upstairs master bedroom to the house.

Restoration of the exterior has included repointing the brick foundation, repair of damaged wood in the weatherboard siding, replacement of an asphalt shingle roof with hand-cut cedar shakes, and installation of single pane storm windows to protect the existing glass.

Main Building - Interior

The two earliest rooms on the first floor, the north parlor and dining room, have carved door-casings and more elaborate five-piece crown molding than the later c. 1820 rooms. In the north parlor, there are three

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Virginia

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exterior windows and two doors, one being the original c. 1700 front door. The interior door leads into the dining room and has an original four-panel wood door with hardware. The parlor fireplace has a narrow mantle with reeded columns and a reeded center design. The dining room has two exterior windows and one interior window and a four-panel wood door into the center passage. The fireplace in the dining room has a larger and more ornate mantle, with convex fluted columns.

The entrance to the house is through a four-panel wood door with c. 1820 hardware. The entrance hall is thirteen-feet by thirteen-feet and contains one exterior window, leading into the c. 1700 parlor. The walls are plaster and plaster board. All doors throughout the house are made with deep pocket mortise-and-tenon joints.

The entrance hall opens through double four-panel doors into the center passage. Trim details in both entry halls include Federal-style three-piece crown molding and recessed panel wainscoting, added c. 1820, and all in excellent condition. The staircase from the original dining room was moved to its current location into the center hall during the c. 1820 construction. The handrail of the simple federal staircase was cut from a single piece of dogwood purportedly from a tree on the property. The newel and posts remain uncarved.

The two south rooms mirror the north rooms with a south parlor/library and a master bedroom. Moldings in these rooms are also three-piece and in excellent condition, as is the detailing around the built-in bookcases in the library. As noted earlier, the south end chimneys, c. 1820, are of different sizes to accommodate a larger fireplace in the current master bedroom and a double flue for the upstairs fireplace. These fireplaces have Greek Revival wood mantles. All five fireplaces throughout the house are in working condition with their original wooden mantles and brick hearths.

The center passage ends at a large wood four-panel door opposite the front entrance. The door is now an interior door, joining the 1940 addition to the house. The c. 1820 styled crown molding and recessed panel wainscoting are continued into the 1940 addition. This addition has since been renovated (fall 2006) to enlarge the kitchen, add a sitting room, and eliminate the maid's room. During the renovation, flooring of an earlier kitchen was discovered under the existing kitchen, as well as a possible sleeping porch. Also during this work, some first floor sections of the heart pine flooring, in the c. 1700 portion, were replaced.

The second floor rooms remain original with heart pine flooring, simple wood base moldings and four-panel doors.

Outbuildings

There are three additional resources on the property, and according to the *Reconnaissance Level Phase I Architectural Survey Report* (Frazier Associates) completed in 1992, these are the only antebellum outbuildings to survive in Virginia Beach.³ They were restored by a previous owner and are grouped close to the northeast elevation of the dwelling. It is likely that the smokehouse was moved into the current grouping by a previous owner.

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(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

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The spring or dairy house is 117" square. It is a single-story wood-frame and beaded weatherboard over a high brick foundation. The flooring, which is now poured concrete, is approximately five feet below ground level. The roof is a pyramid, hipped roof with a dove-cote on the top and is covered with cedar shake. It is used for storage and contains a working well.

The smoke house (shed) is 147" x 99". It is also a single-story wood-frame and weatherboard on a loose brick foundation. It has had structural restoration and may have been moved to its current site.

The garage is 220" x 461" and is a one-and-a-half story wood-frame and beaded weatherboard, with a hipped roof covered in cedar shake. The interior is largely unfinished and shows signs of multiple repairs. The building likely served as a stable or housing for slaves. It has been fitted with garage doors and is currently used for storage.

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**The Hermitage
Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

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Summary Statement

The Hermitage property dates back to Princess Anne's (now Virginia Beach) original land grant to Adam Thoroughgood and a dwelling has marked the site since the late seventeenth century. The design of the home reflects both its purpose (farmhouse), as well as the style of architecture developed in the Tidewater region. The property retains its historic integrity. Workmanship is careful and representative of various stages of the home's evolution. Antebellum outbuildings remain intact. Because of urban development, it is currently one of the few remaining links to the area's founding. It is also significant in the evolution of community planning, as this original land grant was first divided among family members, forming the basis of the Town of Lynnhaven and Old Donation Church and many decades later, as the basis for the County's first modern development. In addition to the Thoroughgood family, many prominent early settlers of Princess Anne County owned or were connected to the property. In more recent history, the Hermitage was owned by Admiral John K. Beling, USN, commander of the Norfolk-based U.S.S. Forrestal at the time of its disastrous fire in 1967. The Hermitage meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent and well-preserved example of Colonial style craftsmanship.

Historical Background

While it is believed that a Native American tribe known as the Chesapeake had occupied the area along the Lynnhaven River and Great Neck area, it was not until 1607 that English explorers arrived in Virginia. The first settlers in Jamestown eventually began to move east and, by 1630, early settlements existed along the Elizabeth and Lynnhaven rivers. The first four men to move permanently into this eastern area were Adam Thoroughgood, William Julian, Francis Mason and Thomas Willoughby. Thoroughgood and others set up trade and established homes adjacent to the Lynnhaven River.⁴

Adam Thoroughgood was born around 1602 in Grimston, Norfolk, England, where his father was a vicar at St. Botolph's Church.⁵ He came to Virginia in 1621 aboard the *Charles* as an indentured servant to Mr. Edward Waters. He returned to England three years later, after completing his indenture, and married Sarah Offley. He settled again in the Elizabeth City area and built a small farm of 200 acres.⁶

Stephen S. Manfield, in his Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach, notes:

"In 1628, presumably drawing on the dowry Sarah brought to their marriage, he began paying for the transportation of other English men and women to Virginia. By 1635, he could petition for grant of

5,350 acres of land lying west of the Lynnhaven River in South Hampton Roads, basing his claim on the 50-acre "headright" for each of the 105 persons he had transported."⁷

Thoroughgood's land patent was granted on June 24, 1635 by the Privy Council of England for land along the western branch of the Lynnhaven River. Around 1635, he began construction of a house, believed to be located near today's Bayville Golf Club. He served in the House of Burgesses and Governor's Council and, at his death in 1640, was, "by far, the top of the social roster of his day."⁸

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(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Adam Thoroughgood had given land to Lynnhaven Parish to establish a church. By 1665, a county seat was established nearby, called Lynnhaven. Princess Anne County was formally established in 1691, with Lynnhaven Town as the county seat.⁹

Lt. Col. Adam Thoroughgood II inherited the land and his estate was divided in the 1670s by his six sons. Argall, the eldest, inherited the manor house and lands. John, the second eldest, inherited the property on which the Hermitage is located. A house is mentioned in a 1700 deed book and in a deed of gift in 1707.

Princess Anne remained a mostly rural community dotted with small towns until the twentieth century. During the Revolution, the area was hotly contested by both the British and the American armies. The City of Norfolk was bombarded on January 1, 1776 by fleeing British governor Lord Dunmore and later burned by patriots to avoid its capture. The War was ended in nearby Yorktown.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for this property is c. 1700 - 1940, during which the majority of both style and features of the dwelling were installed. The Hermitage is an excellent example of Colonial architecture adapted to the vagaries of Tidewater weather. The home is sited to ensure protection from winds and was supported by acres of oyster beds and fishing to supplement the farming.

Hand hewn posts and beams in the building's foundation suggest an abundance of native wood source. The alterations and additions to the dwelling contribute to the property's ability to convey the significant historic period.

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Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

Virginia

Section 9 Page 7

Bibliography

2003 Comprehensive Plan Technical Report, City of Virginia Beach, 2003.

Cavaliers and Pioneers, Patent Book No. 8, p. 400.

Creecy, John Harvie, Thorowgood Family Genealogical Chart, 1971.

Deed and Will Books, Princess Anne County, VA.

The Defence of Norfolk in 1807, as told by William Tatham to Thomas Jefferson, edited by Norma Lois Peterson, Norfolk County Historical Society of Chesapeake, VA 1970, p. 57.

Dorman, John, *Adventures of Purse and Person, Virginia*, 2007.

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Frazier Associates, *Reconnaissance Level Phase I Architectural Survey Report*, 1992.

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Tazewell, C.W., editor, *Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites, City of Virginia Beach, as of July 1, 1989, By Age and Location*, prepared by the Office of Research and Strategic Analysis of the City of Virginia Beach, March 1990.

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**The Hermitage
Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

Virginia

Section 10 Page 8

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundaries are as follows:

The house site is situated 98.5 feet northeast of the southwest parcel line of lot 39 traveling west along the southwest boundary line of Hermitage Road for 106 feet. The boundary then travels north in a northeasterly direction for 237 feet. The boundary then travels southeast for 257.09 feet to the boundary line of Moore's Lane. The boundary then travels in a southwesterly direction along the boundary line of Moore's Lane for 254.99 feet to the boundary of Hermitage Road. The boundary then travels northwest, terminating 142.26 feet down the boundary of Hermitage Road. The property boundary is described on the Virginia Beach City web site as GPIN 14798178650000, and Map Reference #0039, Page #0037; and is referenced in Deed Book 4521, Page 0758 dated 10/05/2001.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Hermitage property include the historic main house, the smokehouse, the dairy house and the garage, as they are currently owned in the City of Virginia Beach.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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**The Hermitage
Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

Virginia

Section Photographic Data Page 9

The following is the same for all photos:

The Hermitage (VDHR #134-0016)
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Photographer: Marianne Little
Photos Taken: September 2007
Digital Images stored at VDHR in Richmond, VA

- 1 of 15: Main House, Front NW oblique
- 2 of 15: Main House, Front West elevation
- 3 of 15: Main House, SW side elevation
- 4 of 15: Main House, South side elevation
- 5 of 15: Main House, SE back elevation
- 6 of 15: Main House, NE side elevation
- 7 of 15: Main House, North side elevation
- 8 of 15: Interior – Front hall through center hall to kitchen, NE oblique
- 9 of 15: Interior – Living Room, South oblique
- 10 of 15: Interior – Dining Room, SW
- 11 of 15: Interior – Center hall to front hall, SE
- 12 of 15: Interior – Master Bedroom, E
- 13 of 15: Smokehouse, SW oblique
- 14 of 15: Dairy House, SW oblique
- 15 of 15: Garage, SW oblique

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**The Hermitage
Virginia Beach (ind. city),**

Virginia

Section 8 Endnotes Page 10

Endnotes

- ¹ The modern family and community name “Thoroughgood” was originally listed as “Thoroughgood” or “Thorogood” in land patents and early records. By the mid-eighteenth century, the current spelling appeared consistently in church and county records. For consistency, the modern form is used throughout.
- ² Frazier Associates, *Reconnaissance Level Phase I Architectural Survey Report* (1992).
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ 2003 Comprehensive Plan Technical Report, City of Virginia Beach, Citywide, p. 110.
- ⁵ John Dorman, *Adventures of Purse and Person, Virginia* (Genealogical Publishing Co., Vol III, 2007) p 607.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Stephen S. Mansfield, *Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach* (Norfolk: Donning Company, 1989)p 12.
- ⁸ Amy Waters Yarsinske, *Virginia Beach, A History of Virginia’s Golden Shore* (Charleston,SC: Arcadia, 2002) p 42.
- ⁹ 2003 Comprehensive Plan Technical Report, p. 110.

The Hermitage
4200 Hermitage Rd
Va Beach, Va
UTM ref.

Zone 18
Easting
400174
Northing
5916926

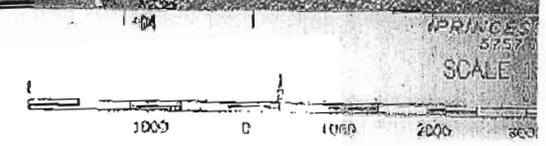


36°52'30"
76°07'30"

2 700 000 FEET

2.9 MI. TO U.S. 58

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
and the National Ocean Service in cooperation
with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies



ESVILLE
27 56