

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hermitage, an Accomack County residence, is located on the east bank of Craddock Creek off Route 615, about eighteen miles south of Accomac. Built in two stages between 1769 and 1787, the single-pile, gable-roofed house has a weatherboarded wood-frame core of five bays with brick ends. The ends and semi-exterior chimneys are executed in Flemish-bonded brick with a stepped-brick water table, also in Flemish bond. Chevrons in glazed headers mark the gables. Early 20th-century photographs show a small, one-story hyphen that served to connect the main house to a one-story kitchen. The hyphen was removed in the 1930s.

The front (east) elevation contains the main entrance which consists of a paneled door framed within a simply executed architrave. The entry is sheltered by a gabled porch, a 20th-century replacement of a larger Victorian-style bracketed, shed-roofed porch. A rear entrance retains its original door and architrave surround. A 20th-century screened gable-roofed porch shelters the rear entry. A side entrance is located on the south elevation. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung sash within three-part architraves flanked by louvred shutters. Original gabled dormers have 6/6 hung-sash windows. A modillioned cornice embellishes the east and west elevations. The cornice terminates in a fancy scrolled endboard.

As originally built, the Hermitage consisted of a side-hall plan that comprised the three northernmost bays of the present structure. Following the Revolution, a two-bay, double-pile section was added to the south of the main entrance resulting in the present central-hall plan. The addition is slightly wider than the earlier portion, resulting in a broken rear elevation. The hall is dominated by the main open-well, open-string stair that has a paneled spandrel, walnut turned balusters, a molded handrail, and a turned newel. A wainscot follows the stair and embellishes the remaining walls.

The north parlor is the most elaborate room in the house. The focal point is the chimney piece that consists of a crossetted architrave topped by a dentiled mantel shelf with a crossette-framed overmantel. A distinctive touch is the carved, violin-like scrolls in the blocks of the frieze. The chimney piece is flanked by two built-in wall cupboards with crossetted architrave surrounds and glazed doors. A heavy cornice with two tiers of dentils runs the perimeter of the room. A paneled pedestal-type wainscot is found on the remaining walls. The windows are framed by three-part architraves. The dining room is less formal and has a Federal-style mantel set within a partially paneled wall. The remaining portion of the wall is plastered and has a paneled wainscot that also ornaments the remaining walls. Behind the dining room is a room now used as a modern kitchen. It is possible that all the first-floor woodwork dates from the time the house was enlarged, as it is of similar character. All doors are framed by three-part architraves. The second-floor chambers are undistinguished.

The early kitchen outbuilding is located south of the main house. The building was extensively renovated for use as a guest house. A paneled chimney has been retained. A small addition is connected to the rear of the kitchen. Behind the kitchen is a small early storage shed with two doors.

The house's setting on Craddock Creek remains essentially unchanged from the time the building was erected in the 18th century. The frontage to the house is still farmed.

RCC

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1769-1787

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built on an unpretentious scale, the Hermitage has the quality and refinement characteristic of the Eastern Shore's larger colonial residences. With its brick ends, chevroned gables, dormer windows, and symmetrically arranged bays, the house is a visually appealing example of Virginia's rural architecture -- exhibiting both quaintness and formality. The house is among the best preserved of its type in the region and retains its fine Georgian woodwork, including an impressive parlor chimney piece with flanking cupboards, and a handsome stair. The Hermitage was erected in two stages between 1769 and 1787 by Edmund Bayly, a member of an old Eastern Shore family that had owned the land since 1649. During the second half of the 18th century, the property was one of the county's more active farms.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The name of Richard Bayly, progenitor of this family, first appears in county records in 1637: "I, John Neale doe deliver Richard Bayly to John Hasloe to live with him until such tyme as I shall deliver a newe man for Fower yeares at the least..." At the end of the four years, Bayly lost no time in establishing himself. He began his career as a planter, purchased "one Blacke heifer of the Age of Two yeares" and married "the widow of Henry Weede..."¹ In 1649 he received the patent for seven hundred acres which were to be owned and occupied by his descendants for more than two hundred years. His holdings increased by five hundred acres when he purchased the patent of Toby Norton in 1653. His son and namesake inherited both the seven-hundred- and five-hundred- acre tracts on Craddock Creek in 1672.

The younger Richard Bayly was appointed a major in 1699 in the Eastern Shore militia. In 1720 he divested himself of a portion of the Norton patent, making a deed of gift to his grandson Edmund, son of Richard Bayly, III, of "250 acres...out of my dividend of land..."² In 1728 his will was recorded and he bequeathed the remaining 250 acres of the Norton patent to his grandson Henry Bayly and "all of the residue of my land lying on Craddock Creek I give to my grandson Richard Bayly...to my wife Elizabeth the third part of my howse orchard and Plantation during her widow hood."³ The latter tracts constitute the original Richard Bayly patent of seven hundred acres acquired in 1649. This bequest also included slaves, a silver tankard, a monogrammed silver spoon, and silver buttons.

Richard Bayly died in 1769, and the property was inherited by his son, Edmund, who replaced his father's house with the Hermitage. Edmund Bayly's activities from 1769 to 1782 are unrecorded. In 1783 Bayly was assessed for nineteen slaves, seven horses and forty head of cattle. A jump in the tax rate applied to this property in 1787 appears to confirm architectural evidence that Bayly enlarged his house at this time. The addition constitutes the south dining room and bed chambers.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Accomack County Records: Deed Books: 9, 11, 13, 39.
Deed Books: 1783-1788; 1797-1800; 1800-1807; 1810-1812; 1822-1824; 1849-1850; 1853-1855; 1855-1858.
Land Tax Books: 1782-1850. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6 acres
 Quadrangle name Jamesville, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1 8</u>	<u>4 2 1 8 2 0</u>	<u>4 1 5 9 0 2 0</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on E side of Craddock Creek, about 3,250' NW of intersection of state routes 613 and 615; thence extending about 100' E to 5' contour; thence extending about 600' S (crossing approach road from route 615) to 10' contour; thence extending about 300' W to E side of Craddock Creek; thence extending about 900' N along said side to point of origin.

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date November 1980
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Tucker Hill*
Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date NOV 18 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

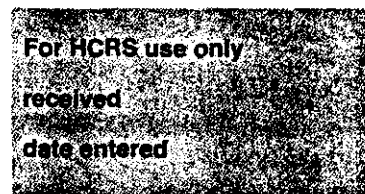
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hermitage, Accomack County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6,7,8

Page 1



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1972, 1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of six acres bordered on the west by Craddock Creek. This acreage is a fraction of the original Edmund Bayly holdings of 250 acres. The Bayly tract was divided after his death, resulting in multiple ownership of the land. The division of the land has continued to the present day. The nominated acreage includes the main house, kitchen, and storage house with creek frontage.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Edmund Bayly died intestate in the winter of 1796. A detailed description of his farming operation is given in the 1797 inventory of his estate. The inventory included thirty-three head of sheep, more than forty head of cattle, twenty-five hogs, a large assortment of horses, and a variety of poultry. From his lands Bayly was able to raise flax, more than 905 bushels of corn and 600 bushels of oats. Considerable farming equipment is also specifically enumerated in the inventory. It is obvious that Bayly was a highly successful farmer and a man of some wealth. His residence typifies the type of house that would have served such a plantation operation in the region.

The Bayly land was partitioned in August 1797. His daughter Betsey, a minor, inherited the house and thirty-two acres. His four other children inherited equal shares of land. The house became listed as the property of Matthew Harmanson after Betsey's marriage to Harmanson in 1803. In 1812 the property was sold to Betsey's brother Edward who lived in Northampton County. The property remained in the family until 1855 when William W. Rodgers of Accomack purchased the tract for \$6,000. The house had been abandoned when it was purchased in the present century by Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Mountcastle who restored it to its 18th-century appearance.

Preserving its 18th-century agrarian setting, the property may be considered typical of the more prosperous early farms and plantations on the Eastern Shore. Access to the house is provided both by Craddock Creek, which flows to neighboring harbors, and by a drive which runs through farmlands along the main road to Accomack, the county seat. The farmlands are now under a number of separate ownerships and are no longer part of the house lot.

VDS/RCC

¹Ames, Susie, ed., "County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia, 1632-1640," American Legal Records, Vol. 7 (Washington, D.C.: The American Historical Association, 1954), pp. 403, 433.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hermitage, Accomack County, Virginia

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8,9

Page 2,1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

²Accomack County Deed and Will Books, 1715-1729, p. 115.

³Ibid., p. 313.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Accomack County Records: Wills and Deed Books: 1715-1729; 1767-1772; 1798-1800.

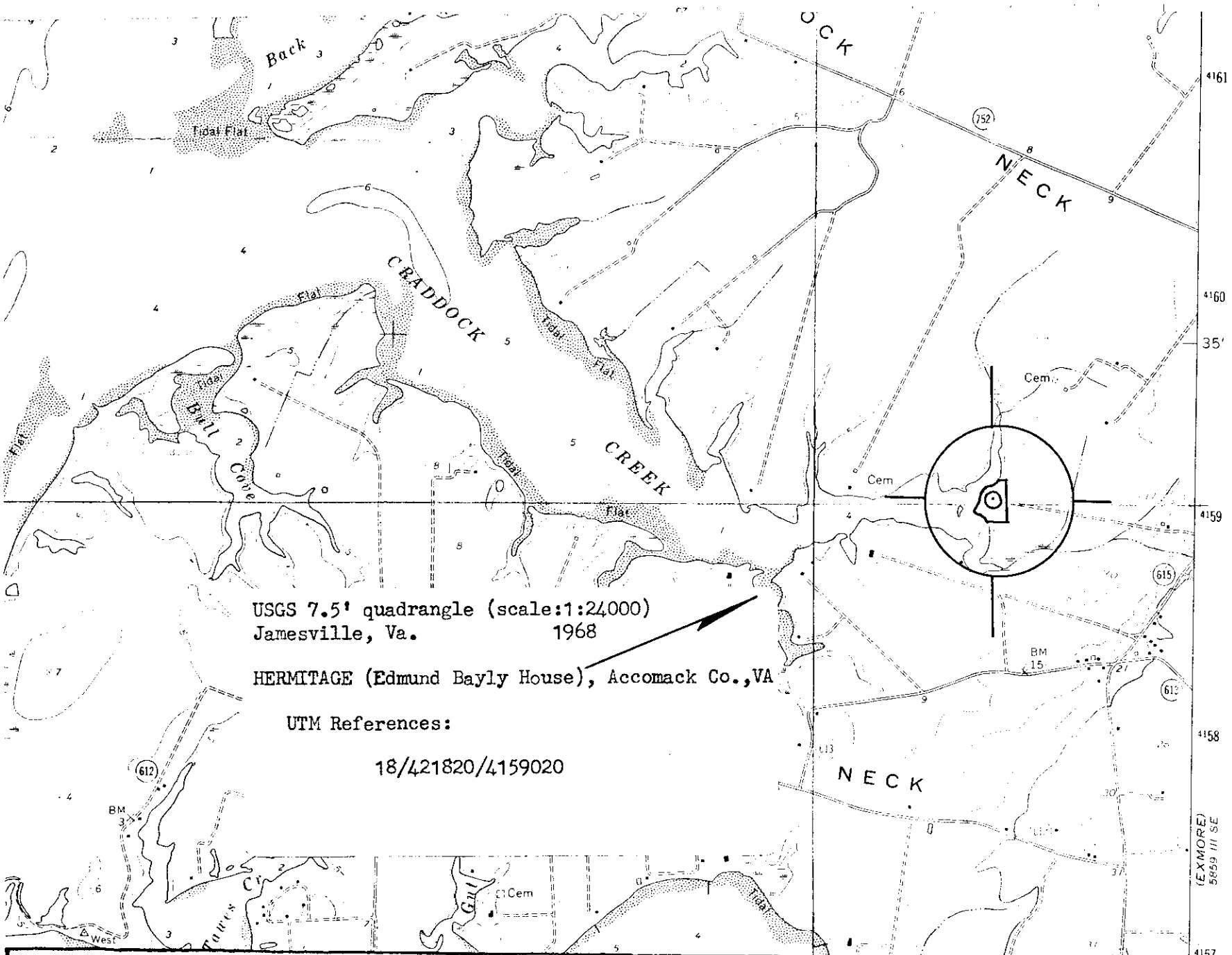
Ames, Susie, ed. "County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia. 1632-1640."

American Legal Records. Vol. 7. Washington, D.C.: The American Historical Association, 1954.

Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers. Vol. 2, 1666-1695, Indexed by Claudia B. Grundman.

Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977.

Whitelaw, Ralph T. Virginia's Eastern Shore. Vol. 1. Gloucester, Mass., 1968.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Jamesville, Va. 1968

HERMITAGE (Edmund Bayly House), Accomack Co., VA

UTM References:

18/421820/4159020

(EXMORE)
5859 III SE

4161
4160
35'
4159
4158
4157