

VLR - 3/19/09
NRHP - 6/3/09

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 B. Williams & Co. Store
other names/site number VDHR #057-0035

2. Location

street & number 1030 Williams Wharf Road not for publication N/A
city or town Mathews vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Mathews code 115 zip code 23109-0927

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]
Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

[Signature]
Date

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)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce, Government, Domestic; Sub: Department Store, Post Office, Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic; Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; roof Metal: Tin; walls Wood: Weatherboard; other Chimney: Brick; Porches: Concrete

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)

- X 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.
X 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
Commerce

Period of Significance 1869/70 - 1935

Significant Dates 1869/1870, 1933, 1935

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Williams, Josiah (builder)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #
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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.968

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing				
1	18	0380879	4140323	2	18	0380913	4140357	3	18	0380940	4140319	4	18	0380897	4140292

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 Thane H. Harpole, David A. Brown and Meredith A. H. Mahoney
 organization DATA Investigations, LLC date July 6, 2008
 street & number 1759 Tyndall Point Lane telephone 804-815-4467
 city or town Gloucester Point state VA zip code 23062-2334

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 David W. and Pamela M. Muffelman
 street & number 757 Myrtle Grove Lane telephone 804-693-7192
 city or town Mobjack state VA zip code 23056

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 REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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**B. Williams & Co. Store
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7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The B. Williams & Co. Store is a two-story frame mercantile building built in 1869-70 that still occupies a strategic location beside the East River at Williams Wharf in Mathews County, Virginia. For more than three centuries this location served the surrounding community in a variety of uses including tobacco port, customs facility, store, post office, shipyard, steamboat dock, oyster shucking and canning house, and public landing. It also served as a destination of the James Adams floating theatre in the early twentieth century, the inspiration for the musical *Showboat*. The B. Williams & Co. Store functioned as a post office, commercial and residential building from its completion in 1870 until the end of steamboat traffic in Mobjack Bay in 1935. After that time the store was used exclusively as a residence until its recent purchase by the Muffelmans. The exterior appearance of the store has changed little since it was built, although there have been some alterations to windows and siding. The store is a much more formal example of a country store than commonly seen in the region. This may be due to the influence and ideas of Heron Murray of Baltimore, an in-law of the store owners, who supplied funds, materials and advice for the construction of the store. The prominence of Williams Wharf as a steamboat landing may have compelled the Williams' to build a store more befitting of its diverse and sizable clientele. The interior has been more extensively modified, but the frame, scale, and plan of the building is largely unchanged. The current owners are preserving the building and, with the help of the Mathews County Land Conservancy, are interested in restoring it to serve the community as a heritage center. A single non-contributing garage is located about 50 feet east of the store, a single set of non-contributing gateposts are located about 75 feet southeast, and a non-contributing low concrete wall surrounds much of the property. The store building represents a tangible link to Mathews' maritime and commercial history, and helps preserve aspects of that essential heritage for the benefit of the community. Williams Wharf is an important part of Mathews' maritime, transportation and cultural heritage, and the nomination of the B. Williams & Co. Store is an important cornerstone in the efforts to create an historic district to preserve and display these resources.

Detailed Exterior Description

The B. Williams & Co. Store is a simple two-story rectangular frame building with Classical Greek Revival elements constructed as a country store and dwelling. The store operated in the main first floor room, with a post office in one corner, and living space upstairs. It was built on brick piers with one interior chimney. The space between the piers has been filled with later brickwork to give the appearance of a continuous foundation. The building is capped by a low-pitched tin roof. In an 1870 letter, Heron Murray mentions shipping the tin for the roof down from Baltimore, and also offers advice for its proper installation.¹ The store faces south towards the steamboat landing, ensuring visibility to anyone disembarking from the steamships or other boats landing at the wharf. Its location adjacent to the original road (modern Williams Wharf Road, Route 614) also made it convenient to visitors or individuals conducting business at the wharf. The location of the store adjacent to the East River exposed it to damaging hurricanes in 1933 and 2003. The 1933 storm was followed by an abrupt end to the steamboat traffic in 1935, while the more recent hurricane damage necessitated some repairs/replacements to the building, including a number of the window sashes.² The exterior siding is modern particle board weatherboard. Remodeling of the store into a solely private residence likely occurred soon after the mid 1930s with additional alterations after the sale of the building in 1972. While these events involved several interior and exterior alterations, the framing, footprint and much of the fabric of the store is still intact.

The main south entrance contains a pair of original or very early double wood and glass doors with a five-pane transom above. Modern storm doors have been installed to protect these doors. The doors are fitted with an old lock containing an interesting folding key. The doorway is flanked on both sides by large windows lighting the main room of the store. The window frames and wood shutters appear to be original, verified by several late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century photographs, but the destructive force of Hurricane Isabel in 2003 necessitated the replacement of the original wooden nine-over-nine sashes with oversized six-over-six metal sashes. A modern porch spanning the south façade was added after the sale of the property in 1972. The porch has a flat roof with four metal columns resting on concrete plinths. The porch sits on a brick patio with two brick steps leading up to the front door. The brickwork, including paths to the kitchen addition and to the driveway, is relatively recent and likely predates

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the porch by a few years. The upper floor of the south façade boasts a similar exterior appearance to that of the first floor. A wooden door is centered along the façade with flanking windows of six-over-six sash. As below, the door, window frames and shutters appear to be early or original, while the sashes are modern replacements. Above the second story windows and door is an original Classical Greek Revival style cornice with dentilled molding and curved brackets. The cornice continues around all four sides of the building, lending a graceful elegance and unifying element to the store. Early photographs of the store show the south façade looking remarkably similar to its appearance today, minus the porch.

The west side of the store has one window on the first floor and three above. All of the upstairs windows are in their original location and have original or early wooden shutters. The window frames are also original, but with modern replacement sash. The first floor window was originally a doorway (as seen in one early photograph), but the change was made early in the twentieth century before the 1933 hurricane. A modern porch is attached to the north side of the store. Originally constructed as a screened-in porch in the 1950s, possibly on piers, it was converted to a sun porch with sliding glass doors and a continuous concrete-block foundation.³ The doorway between the north porch and the store building is on the east side of the porch and appears to be in its original location. This porch replaces a long frame addition built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century that stretched to the shore of the East River. This space was apparently used for storage, providing direct access to boats docked behind the store, and the kitchen was also located in this space. A long dock extended out from this warehouse addition which was fitted with a track and small car to move goods from the boats into the building.⁴ This addition was torn down during the second quarter of the twentieth century. Two windows are on the second floor of the north side in their original locations, with modern replacement sash.

The east side of the store is similar to the west in terms of fenestration and condition. A one room addition to the east side, likely built very soon after the main store building, is accessed through a doorway which matches that of the original doorway on the west side. It was converted to a kitchen in the 1960s, but its original function is unclear. It was used as a dining room during the early part of the twentieth century.⁵ It could have been the 'small retiring room for lady customers' that Heron Murray suggested they build.⁶ Two windows along the north side and one on the south side are original to the building, and contain early six-over-six wooden sash. A large double window on the east side was added after the sale of the property in 1972, replacing a smaller earlier window. The doorway along the south side is in the original location and the door appears to be a replacement. Prior to the 1933 hurricane, the chimney was located along the middle of the east side, likely venting a wood or coal-fired stove centered along the wall.⁷ During renovations after the storm the chimney was removed and a new one built in the southeast corner of the room, also intended for a wood- or coal-fired stove. This chimney remains but is currently sealed off and unused.

Detailed Interior Description

The interior arrangement of the store has changed little on the first floor. The main store room is a large space measuring 27 feet by 24 feet, with approximately 10 foot ceilings. The original random width pine flooring is intact and covered by modern pine plank flooring. The original beaded board wainscoting which covered the ceiling and portions of the wall was removed after 1935 when the main room was converted into living space, exposing the original joists and mortise and tenon framing surrounding the chimney. Portions of the original wall and ceiling boards are still intact within two closets beside the chimney in the back room on the first floor. According to Betty Murray Richardson, the store room had shelves lining both sides with drawers below for additional storage of goods.⁸ The post office was in the southwest corner. The chimney is original but the firebox and mantel were modernized by the previous owner. The original mantel still exists and was recently offered to the Muffelmans for use in restoring the building.

Behind the main room was one additional room which contained the staircase. This space is now partially divided into a hallway, closet space, and bathroom. The staircase leading upstairs is along the north wall of this room. It appears to have been extensively repaired or rebuilt, but Betty Richardson says that it is in the same location as the original.⁹ The addition on the east side functions as a kitchen and contains extensive wood cabinets and counters installed after 1972. The enclosed porch on the north is a simple carpeted room with sliding glass doors which provide views and access to the yard and East River.

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The upstairs contains a hallway along the west side and four primary rooms. The back (north) room, now converted to a bathroom, was previously a servant's bedroom during the early twentieth century.¹⁰ The other three rooms are bedrooms, the largest one in the center containing a fireplace with a simple restrained wooden mantle. The southeast room contains the original exterior doorway and an early or original door visible in the early photographs. This door suggests that a porch was intended to be built, but never completed. The walls are covered with modern drywall/sheetrock, so it cannot be said for sure, but the upstairs room arrangement is likely original. The floor is covered with wall-to-wall carpeting throughout the upstairs, but a small section of original pine floor boards visible in a closet suggests that the original floors are still intact. It is possible that some of the mercantile activity occurred upstairs, but so far this is unclear. Due to the low pitch of the roof, there is limited attic space which can only be accessed through a small opening in the hallway ceiling. This space does not appear to have been significantly altered.

Secondary Resources

A modern frame garage is located about 50 feet directly east of the store. This building is one story with vinyl siding and three large doors along its west façade. This building is non-contributing. Brick columns flank the driveway to the south of the store. These appear to date to the mid-twentieth-century renovation and are non-contributing. A low concrete curb/wall also surrounds much of the property, defining the boundary lines. On the north side, this wall functions as a seawall protecting the shoreline from erosion, and stands less than 50 feet north of the store. The wall predates 1972, but is non-contributing.

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The B. Williams & Co. Store is an important landmark along the East River at historic Williams Wharf. Sitting in the same location as it has for 140 years, observing the changing transportation modes and population shifts of Mathews County, the B. Williams & Co. Store preserves the link between Mathews County's rich maritime traditions and the rapidly changing modern landscape. The Williams and Murray families owned, occupied and operated Williams Wharf from the late eighteenth through to the early twentieth century, marking over one hundred and fifty years at the center of the county's commercial and maritime enterprises. Several nineteenth-century buildings relating to the Williams family survive, but the B. Williams & Co. Store is the best preserved and most recognized building at Williams Wharf today. It is also an important survival of an early woman-owned and woman-operated enterprise. Both Bettie Williams, who ran the millinery shop, and Mary L. Williams, who operated the store for a time during the early twentieth century, left their marks as notable pioneers in the business community. Bettie Williams's hats were highly regarded, and attracted female customers from throughout the region. Building the store soon after the Civil War represented a significant investment in Mathews County infrastructure, and as a woman-owned business helped redefine the roles and importance of women in the rebuilding of the local economy after the tumultuous decade of the 1860s. A post office was operated within the store from 1879 through its demise, serving an important function in the social and economic life of area residents. As the B. Williams & Co. Store is restored and converted into a community heritage center, it will showcase the impacts that water, commerce and steamboats have had on the people and lifeways of Mathews County, and it will allow the Mathews County Land Conservancy to interpret the historic context of the wharf and the several historic structures remaining. B. Williams & Co. Store played a prominent role in the commercial and social history of Mathews County throughout its period of significance which began with the completion of the store in 1870 through to the demise of steamboat traffic in Mobjack Bay in 1935 and the closing of the store. The survival of this store through two damaging hurricanes in 1933 and 2003 is remarkable considering the loss of so many other buildings at Williams Wharf over the years. Little research has been completed on the commercial or social history of Mathews County, but B. Williams & Co. Store, and the larger enterprises of Williams Wharf, through restoration, archaeology, and documentary research hold great potential to add significant depth to our current knowledge of these areas. The uniqueness of the store's architecture and its direct association with multiple generations of the Williams family greatly enhance the significance of this property. B. Williams & Co. Store is nominated under Criteria A and C for its contribution to the long commercial history of Williams Wharf and the role that many members of the Williams family, particularly female, played in its operation, and also for its embodiment of a late nineteenth-century Classical Revival commercial building with few or no parallels within the surrounding area.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Located along the shore of the East River at historic Williams Wharf, the B. Williams & Co. Store sits on a 0.968 acre lot with long views up and down the river. A local landmark since its construction in 1869-70, it served as a general merchandise store, ships chandlery, specialty ladies hat store and post office during the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth. Owned by the Williams-Murray family since the late eighteenth century, this site and family served as a major focal point of much of the activity that took place at this busy port and crossroads for nearly 200 years. The Williams Wharf area was first settled and utilized by European settlers in the mid-seventeenth century. As tobacco was the primary crop and dispersed settlement the default system of development, colonial leaders encouraged ports and required inspection stations to regulate the quality of the crop and load it on ships bound for England. Williams Wharf became an early port for the shipment of tobacco and return of purchased goods from European merchants. After the Revolutionary War, when Kingston Parish separated from Gloucester County to become the new county of Mathews, Williams Wharf became the primary entrepot for goods and people moving to and from the county seat, located only two-and-a-half miles north.

Samuel Williams purchased 640 acres of lands surrounding what is now Williams Wharf from the Reverend John Dixon in 1779.¹¹ The property contained two colonial homes, a tide mill, store, warehouse and customs house. His third son, Thomas Williams, inherited the wharf and the large parcel of surrounding land in the early nineteenth century, passing it to his son William Williams. An official Customs Office remained at Williams Wharf until 1844, after which time it was only a port of delivery. Amongst the documents relating to the wharf and store are early nineteenth-century ledger books documenting all of the ships arriving at Williams Wharf. William Williams is best known for constructing Williams Wharf, and expanding the commercial operations that his father and grandfather began. It appears that the operation of the wharf and various businesses related to it was shared by many members of the Williams family, including William Williams' younger brother Benjamin, and daughter Sarah Elizabeth 'Bettie' Williams (4/4/1833 to 2/24/1907).¹²

The B. Williams & Co. Store was constructed between July 1869 and June 1870. Heron C. Murray (brother-in-law of 'Bettie' Williams), who funded much of the store, called it "Miss Bettie's new store" in an 1869 letter to William Williams, Bettie's father.¹³ The store was to be operated by Bettie and her uncle Benjamin Williams. Heron Murray was a successful Baltimore businessman, and his letters mention some of the details and materials used in the new store, including a suggested floor plan and instructions for properly completing the tin roof. The sophisticated architectural details of the cornice and style of the building may be a direct result of Heron Murray's influence, as he was well-versed in the buildings and commercial ventures in Baltimore. As a result the B. Williams & Co. store has a more urban and refined style than many of its contemporaries in the surrounding region. The architectural sophistication of B. Williams & Co. Store was befitting of its location at one of the primary steamboat ports in the region. This style of store is unusual here, as most commercial buildings built during this period were plain in style and generally gable-fronted. Of the 39 country stores surveyed in neighboring Gloucester County, there were none found with similar classical architectural elements as B. Williams & Co. Store.¹⁴ No comparable study has been completed for Mathews County, but based on a brief survey of extant stores and historic photographs, it appears that the architectural detailing of B. Williams & Co. Store is unique within the county and likely the surrounding region. Murray's influence on the tin roof is clear from the letters, and Betty Richardson also noted that stone steps from the Murray house in Baltimore were shipped down to use at the front door to the store. Surviving receipts from the operation of the store indicate a large payment to Josiah Williams, brother of William and Ben, for 105 days working on the store, plus additional days jobbing and painting. It is likely that Josiah was the primary builder of the store. The store looks remarkably similar now to its appearance during the early 20th century, based on several surviving photographs.

The new B. Williams & Co. Store was constructed near the Old Customs House, a small frame building that had stood on the property since the early nineteenth century. The Williams family had already operated stores in this area for some time, and the new store was likely intended to impress and improve upon the smaller collection of buildings that had served until this point. Heron Murray's letter of July 8, 1869, provides the best description of the activities and buildings present at the wharf at the commencement of construction:

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We think the new store had better be built close up to Bettie's present store, so that a doorway and a step or two up- the old floor being higher than the new one, would connect them jam up together. It will look better, and keep some men, having only business with the grocery store, from passing the dry goods store, or mingling with lady customers, to have the new store on the north side of Bettie's present store; in other words, joining on the side between the present two stores. Then the grocery will be on the side towards the wharf. And Benjamin's present store will rent as a dwelling.¹⁵

Archaeology has the potential to uncover remains of these earlier stores and detail the changing layout of this busy commercial area. The 1869 store building reinforced the legacy of commercial enterprises operated by the Williams family at the wharf, and is a standing reminder of the historical continuity of Williams Wharf since the 17th century.

The store sold general merchandise and also served as a ships chandlery to supply goods to the regular steamboat traffic calling at the wharf. The store also included a post office, and Bettie Williams operated her lady's millinery and clothing shop in a portion of the building. Both Bettie Williams and her sister Columbia, are listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as purveyors of "General merchandise," along with their uncle Benjamin. The store also served as their family dwelling, as the same census lists William Williams and his wife Delila, his brothers John and Benjamin, and several of their daughters (including Bettie and Columbia) living in the same household.¹⁶ Hats and dresses were necessities in nineteenth-century life, as well as avenues of personal expression, and Bettie supplied both the utilitarian and the fashionable. Hers was the first and possibly only millinery shop on the lower Middle Peninsula during the nearly four decades that she operated.¹⁷ Both Ben and Bettie helped repay the loans from Herron Murray, and their signatures are on some of the surviving documents. Ben Williams left the store to another niece, Mary L. Williams, who operated it until the early 20th century. Her nephew, Milton Murray, operated the store for a time, but it ultimately went to his son, Benjamin Murray, who continued to run the store and live upstairs with his family until 1933. Murray's daughter, Betty Murray Richardson, was born in the upstairs portion of the store, and grew up in the building, and she recalls a number of its original details.¹⁸ Prior to 1964 the store portion was remodeled into a summer residence, and was featured on the 1964 Garden Week tour. In 1972, Benjamin Murray sold the property to Robert Bell, who sold it to the current owners, David and Pamela Muffelman in 2007 after remodeling portions of the building and building the garage. The preservation and restoration of B. Williams & Co. Store, based on numerous extant photos, documents, and architectural elements, will showcase the vital role that Williams Wharf and commerce have played in the development of Mathews County.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Heron C. Murray, Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, June 12, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.
- 2 Clara V. Forrest, "Plea to Preserve Old Custom House at Williams Wharf," *Mathews Journal*, April, 1935, no page number. Typescript copy on file, at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia.
- 3 Betty Murray Richardson, Interview, 2008. Recorded and transcribed by Pamela Muffelman, typescript on file at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia, no page number.
- 4 *ibid.*
- 5 *ibid.*
- 6 Heron C. Murray, Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, July 8, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.
- 7 Richardson, Interview, 2008, no page number.
- 8 Polly Cary Mason, editor, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia, Vol.s 1 & 2*, (Chesapeake Book Company: Berryville, Virginia, 1965 (reprint)), p. 37.
- 9 Richardson, Interview, 2008, no page number.
- 10 *ibid.*, no page number.
- 11 Mathews County Land Tax Records, 1779, Mathews County Clerk's Office.
- 12 Mary H. Murray Vawter, *Samule Williams of Northampton and "Gloucester" (Now Mathews) Counties, and Some of His Family*. Unpublished manuscript, typescript on file with the Mathews County Land Conservancy, Mathews, Virginia, 1947; Nineteenth-century ledger books, B. Williams & Co. Store, in possession of Pamela Muffelman, Mathews, Virginia.
- 13 Heron C. Murray, Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, July 8, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia, no page number.
- 14 Department of Historic Resources, *Country Stores and Rural Post Offices of Gloucester County*, RFP 97-98-5, 1998.

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- 15 Murray, Letter of July 8, 1870, no page number.
 - 16 U.S. Federal Census schedules, 1880.
 - 17 Clara V. Forrest, "Plea....," no page number.
 - 18 Richardson, Interview, 2008, no page number.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Primary and Archival Sources

Department of Historic Resources

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Murray, Heron C.

1869 Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, June 12, 1869. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.

1870 Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, July 8, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.

Phillips, Gene

1964 Mathews County Garden Week Attractions Will Feature Many Unusual
Furnishings. *Newport News Daily Press*. April 19, 1964.

Richardson, Betty Murray

2008 Interview. Recorded and transcribed by Pamela Muffelman. Typescript on file at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

Vawter, Mary H. Murray

1947 *Samuel Williams of Northampton and "Gloucester" (Now Mathews) Counties, and Some of His Family*. Unpublished Manuscript, typescript on file with the Mathews County Land Conservancy, Mathews, Virginia.

C.V.F.

1935 *Plea to Preserve Old Custom House at Williams Wharf*. Unidentified newspaper article. Typescript copy on file, at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

Secondary Sources

Department of Historic Resources

1998 Country Stores and Rural Post Offices of Gloucester County, RFP 97-98-5.

Mathews County Historical Society, Incorporated

1983 *Mathews County Panorama*. Mathews Country Historical Society, Inc.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: See attached 1972 plat (Figure 4) and tax parcel map (Figure 7).

Boundary Justification: The property boundaries include the contributing historic structure and the non-contributing garage, gate posts and low curb/wall. The boundaries encompass the entire parcel owned by the current property owners, as indicated on a plat dated April 14th, 1972 (and depicted as Parcel 219 on section 29 of the Mathews County Tax Parcel map) showing that it is bounded to the North by the Ware River, the South by State Route 614, and by adjacent property owners on the east and west. The nominated acreage is entirely within the historic property related to the Williams family throughout the existence of the store.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Photos Page 8

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

B. WILLIAMS & CO. STORE

Location: Mathews County, Virginia

VDHR File Number: 057-0035

Photographer: Thane H. Harpole

Date of Photographs: May 14, 2008

Digital copies and black and white prints are stored at the VDHR Archives in Richmond, VA

SUBJECT: First floor closet interior with original paneling

VIEW: south

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore1.tif

PHOTO: 1 of 10

SUBJECT: Second floor fireplace

VIEW: north

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore2.tif

PHOTO: 2 of 10

SUBJECT: B. Williams & Co. Store, south and east façade

VIEW: northwest

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore3.tif

PHOTO: 3 of 10

SUBJECT: Garage, west and north façade

VIEW: southeast

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore4.tif

PHOTO: 4 of 10

SUBJECT: Detail, southeast corner cornice

VIEW: north

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore5.tif

PHOTO: 5 of 10

SUBJECT: B. Williams & Co. Store, south and east façade

VIEW: west

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore6.tif

PHOTO: 6 of 10

SUBJECT: Detail, south façade double door

VIEW: south

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore7.tif

PHOTO: 7 of 10

SUBJECT: Detail, first floor south façade east window

VIEW: north

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore8.tif

PHOTO: 8 of 10

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

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SUBJECT: B. Williams & Co. Store, south facade
VIEW: north
NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore9.tif
PHOTO: 9 of 10

SUBJECT: Interior, first floor south room
VIEW: south
NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore10.tif
PHOTO: 10 of 10

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Additional Material, Illustrations Page 10

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Additional Material

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Figure 1. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of the south façade of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

Figure 2. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of Williams Wharf with B. Williams & Co. Store in the background.*

Figure 3. *Floor plans of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

Figure 4. *Site plan of B. Williams & Co. Store, using a plat of April 14th, 1972.*

Figure 5. *Late nineteenth-century portraits painted by Mary Murray Vauter of Benjamin Williams, Bettie Williams, Mary Murray Vauter, and Heron Murray Campbell.*

Figure 6. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of the west façade of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

Figure 7. *Mathews County Tax Parcel Map Section 29, showing nominated parcel number 219.*