NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Urbanna Historic District VDHR File No. 316-9

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Virginia Street to the north; Rappahannock Ave. to the west; Watling Street to the south; and Urbanna Creek to the east N/A [ ] not for publication

city, town Urbanna N/A [ ] vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Middlesex code 119 zip code 23175

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[ ] building(s)	65	25	buildings
[X] public-local	[X] district	1	0	sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	0	1	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	0	objects
	[ ] object	66	26	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Kenneth C. Millner Dec. 7, 1990

Signature of certifying official Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC : single dwelling	DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE: specialty store	COMMERCE: specialty store
GOVERNMENT: courthouse	GOVERNMENT: town hall
AGRICULTURE: storage	RELIGION: church

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

GEORGIAN
FEDERAL
QUEEN ANNE
see continuation sheet

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
WOOD: weatherboard
roof METAL
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Urbanna Historic District contains most of the residential, industrial, and commercial buildings of the small town of Urbanna, which is situated on the west bank of Urbanna Creek at its confluence with the Rappahannock River. Created in consequence of an act passed by the colonial House of Burgesses in 1680 to encourage the creation of towns in Virginia, the small port town grew slowly throughout the eighteenth century, but eventually developed to conform to the town's original plan. Serving as the county seat of Middlesex County from 1748 to 1849, Urbanna contains one of Virginia's eleven surviving colonial courthouses, dating from 1748, as well as two mid-eighteenth-century residences (Lansdowne and Wormeley Cottage), and a rare surviving 1760s brick storehouse known as the Old Tobacco Warehouse. Each of these buildings is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The town also possesses a much-altered eighteenth-century tavern, two early-nineteenth-century dwellings (Sandwich and the Gressitt House). It has as well a number of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century dwellings, commercial buildings, and a church representing such architectural styles as the Queen Anne, Carpenter Gothic, Romanesque Revival, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and American Foursquare.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Following the 1680 act of the colonial House of Burgesses encouraging the creation of port towns, the Middlesex County Court authorized the purchase of fifty acres of land located across Rosegill Creek (later Urbanna Creek) from Ralph Wormeley's Rosegill plantation for the purpose of establishing such a town. A survey of the land was made by Robert Beverley, who was also instructed to lay out half-acre lots in the unnamed town. According to county records, however, no lots were sold until 1691 when clear title to the land could be established; therefore, no buildings appear to have been erected in the town before that date.

The first fourteen lots sold after 1691 mostly faced Virginia or

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	*Period of Significance*	*Significant Dates*
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	1680 to 1940	N/A
ARCHITECTURE		
COMMERCE		
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		
MARITIME HISTORY		

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person N/A

Architect/Builder Palmer, Charles H. - builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Urbanna Historic District, which includes most of the southern fifth of the present-day town of Urbanna, is the most historically and architecturally significant part of a charming and attractive town that has evolved over a period of nearly three centuries. During this period the town first was established as the commercial and governmental center of Middlesex County. Although initially Urbanna's commercial activities revolved around the tobacco trade, during the nineteenth century they shifted toward retail sales and, especially later in the century, toward the fishing industry and the tourist trade. By the early twentieth century the town was known as a summer resort community; its oyster beds and packing plants had made it famous for that delicacy as well. Urbanna has maintained its reputation in both fields to the present day and, although the town has expanded far beyond its original boundaries, it retains much of its integrity as a late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial port and summer resort.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

The Urbanna Historic District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A because the history of its founding and development is representative of towns in Virginia during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although few early structures survive, the town still retains the irregular grid pattern of streets so typical of that era. It also contains structures that relate to the town's association with the historical themes of commerce, politics/government, and maritime history. Under Criterion C the district is eligible because it contains a variety of structures that well represent the diversity of architectural styles employed by the town's inhabitants during most of the nearly

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet

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:
- [XX] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 72

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	360820	4166600
B	18	361280	4166600
C	18	361520	4166500
D	18	361400	4166160

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

[X] See continuation sheet

18 360820 4166600 18 361280 4166600

Boundary Justification

18 361520 4166500 18 361400 4166160

X

[X] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David A. Edwards - Architectural Historian; John S. Salmon - Historian
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date August 1, 1990
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143
city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

Main Street, which extended west from the creek and offered convenient access to the tobacco wharves there. Between 1705--one year before the town was officially named Urbanna--and 1708 twenty-three additional lots were sold. They were mostly located on Prince George Street, which extends parallel to Virginia Street. Despite the flurry of land transactions and the requirement to construct a building on each lot within six months of purchase, no buildings from the town's earliest phase of development have survived.

In 1741 the county court employed Henry Towles, a former county surveyor, to resurvey the town and produce a map that was admitted to record in 1747. Towles's map shows fifty-six lots and an irregular grid pattern of streets, an arrangement that mostly survives intact to the present day. Virginia and Prince George streets, both of which lead to the creek, were the main east-west thoroughfares of the town (later the eastern segment of Prince George Street was abandoned), while Cross Street was the only north-south street of any consequence. It later became the location of Urbanna's late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century commercial district. Watling Street, extending from Cross Street to the creek and eventually to the town's ferry and bridge, was laid out in an irregular z-shaped course.

The earliest surviving building in Urbanna is most likely the old courthouse, which is located on Virginia Street. Built in 1748, when the county seat of Middlesex County was officially established at Urbanna, the courthouse was considerably altered when it became a interdenominational church after 1849, the year the county seat was moved to Saluda. Originally a simple rectangular brick structure with walls laid in Flemish bond with an English-bond water table, the building was transformed into a Gothic Revival church with pointed-arched openings and decorative bargeboards. Later additions include an entrance vestibule and a rectangular apse. During the Civil War the church served as barracks for Confederate troops and was a target for Union gunboats, but little damage resulted. By 1907 the old courthouse had become an Episcopal church and was dedicated as Epiphany Chapel in 1920. Deconsecrated in 1948, it was deeded to the Middlesex County Woman's Club, which continues to use the building as its headquarters. Despite its many alterations, the building represents one of only eleven colonial courthouses still extant in Virginia. As such, it was listed on the National Register in 1976.

Urbanna's largest and most sophisticated eighteenth-century

dwelling is Lansdowne, a two-story, gable-roofed, Flemish-bond brick house that is one of Virginia's finest early Georgian-style mansions. Possibly built as early as 1750 when the lot was owned by Ralph Wormeley IV (1715-1790) of nearby Rosegill plantation, the house may just as well have been built by wealthy merchant James Mills, owner of a tobacco storehouse farther down the street, who purchased the property in 1763. Located on Virginia Street near the western end of the historic district, the building is especially noted for its fine rubbed and gauged brickwork and interior woodwork. In 1791 Lansdowne became the home of Arthur Lee, a diplomat during and after the American Revolution and later elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. Lee died soon after purchasing the property and is buried in the family cemetery to the rear of the house. Set back from the street and nearly obscured by large trees, Lansdowne is a focal point for the historic district and was listed on the National Register in 1974.

Another Wormeley family property, located across Virginia Street from Lansdowne, contains a simple, frame and weatherboarded, one-and-one-half-story dwelling that is believed to be the oldest surviving residence in Urbanna. Known as Wormeley Cottage and probably built sometime during the mid-eighteenth century, the house features a steeply-pitched gable roof with three gable dormers across the front, a large exterior end brick chimney with double pairs of shoulders, and nine-over-six-sash double-hung windows. This rare surviving example of colonial vernacular architecture was listed on the National Register in 1978.

One of the most unusual surviving eighteenth-century landmarks in Urbanna is the simple brick storehouse, known as the Old Tobacco Warehouse, located on a high embankment overlooking Virginia Street near the waterfront. Constructed in the 1760s for factor James Mills, it is a rare example of a commercial structure associated with the important tobacco trade in Virginia. At such an establishment tobacco was sold to the local factor who exported it to England in return for imported English goods that were then purchased by local planters. The one-and-one-half-story, Flemish-bond brick, vernacular structure is situated on a full basement and is fronted by a reconstructed full-length wooden porch on a brick base. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities purchased the building in 1938 and, based on a thorough architectural investigation, carefully restored it to its eighteenth-century appearance. This unique building, which was listed on the National Register in 1972, has served as the local library since 1967.

The only other known eighteenth-century building still standing in Urbanna is simply called the Old Tavern. Located on Prince George Street, the tavern was originally a simple one-and-one-half-story frame structure with gable dormers across the front and a massive exterior end brick chimney with paired shoulders at the east gable end. During the early twentieth century the building was greatly altered when it was transformed into a gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival-style dwelling.

One of Urbanna's most attractively sited landmarks is also one of its oldest. Situated on a spacious wooded lot overlooking Virginia Street across from the Old Tobacco Warehouse is a handsome one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, Flemish-bond brick dwelling with one interior end and one exterior end brick chimney. Known locally as the Old Customs House and since 1934 as Sandwich, some evidence suggests that it may have been used as an eighteenth-century customs house, since a brick customs house of similar plan is known to have existed in Urbanna as early as 1770. The earliest recorded insurance policies for buildings on the lot(s), however, suggest that the present house was built between 1801 and 1805; a smaller structure is indicated on the 1801 policy and a structure conforming to the dimensions of the present house are indicated on the 1805 policy. Nonetheless, Sandwich is a fine example of vernacular brick architecture that has been embellished with compatible additions such as hip-roofed dormers, a bracketed modillion cornice, and paneled interior woodwork. In 1934 the property was conveyed to Elizabeth H. Montague, the wife of Andrew Jackson Montague, Virginia's governor from 1902 to 1906.

One other early town residence is the Gressitt House, which is located on Virginia Street adjacent to the Old Tobacco Warehouse. Probably built about 1820, it is a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed, frame and weatherboarded house with exterior end brick chimneys. A four-bay frame porch with Ionic columns extends across the entire front of the building. The Gressitt House is one of several similar gambrel-roofed houses of the early nineteenth century that are found throughout the Middle Peninsula.

Although the town continued to prosper throughout the antebellum period, no commercial buildings or waterfront warehouses of that era have survived. All appear to have been replaced by late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century structures. Similarly, no known residences constructed between about 1830 and 1870 have survived; however, some examples may exist as cores of later Victorian dwellings.

In contrast, late-nineteenth-century and turn-of-the-century dwellings abound in Urbanna. Victorian vernacular examples include: rectangular central-passage-plan houses, such as the dwelling now occupied by Folliard-Hall Insurance Co. and the Genders House (1876), both located on Prince George Street; L-shaped houses with projecting front ells, such as the Leaf House located behind the Old Tobacco Warehouse and the Smith and Pollok houses located on Watling Street; and square, side-passage-plan, hip-roofed dwellings such as the Fitchett (1884) and Bray houses on Prince George Street and the Palmer-Chowning (1875) and Faulkner-Pond (ca. 1909) houses on Watling Street. All of these examples are two-story frame dwellings, some with front porches and gables featuring decorative sawnwork, while others have a minimum of decoration.

An unusual example of a small nineteenth-century house that was expanded to serve as a boarding house is located on Watling Street on a rise above the waterfront. Purchased by Columbus and Lucy Burton in 1882, in time the Burton House became a rambling Victorian structure with projecting gabled bays, bay windows, and porches with decorative sawnwork. Burton operated the steamboat wharf at the foot of Watling Street and provided his clients with a horse-drawn buggy service to his boarding house.

A few houses in the district are regarded as good examples of the Queen Anne style. The Baptist parsonage on Watling Street and the Craine House on Virginia Street are both two-story, frame, hip-roofed dwellings with projecting gabled ells and irregular massing. The Baptist parsonage features a well preserved wraparound porch with turned posts and a spindle frieze, while the Craine House possesses a three-story octagonal corner tower and two-story bay window projection. The town's finest example of the style, however, is undoubtedly the Van Wagenen House (traditionally known as the Marble House for its marble porch steps) located on Virginia Street adjacent to Lansdowne.

Situated on a wooded lot set back from Virginia Street, the Van Wagenen House is a large two-and-one-half-story, hip-roofed, brick residence with many projecting bays and gabled ells. Built around 1900 for L. B. Wagenen, the house's slate roof is punctured by tall corbel-capped brick chimneys and a large hipped dormer. A wide wraparound porch supported by slender Tuscan columns on brick piers extends around two sides of the building, while a recessed arched-bay porch accents the second story at the front. Wide one-over-one-sash windows and entrances are topped by plain stone lintels.

Urbanna's historic commercial architecture mostly dates to the first decades of the twentieth century; however, two well-preserved general stores survive from the late nineteenth century: Haywood's Store on Watling Street and Bristow Store at the corner of Virginia and Cross streets. Constructed in 1875, Haywood's Store is a two-story, frame and weatherboarded, gable-fronted building that dominates the southern entrance into town. Its most distinctive features are its preserved storefront and double-level front porch with decorative sawnwork. Constructed in 1898, R. S. Bristow Store is a two-story, hip-roofed, frame and weatherboarded building with a simple bracketed cornice, two-over-two-sash second-story windows, original storefront windows, and a hipped roof supported by large chamfered brackets above the storefront.

Nearby is another well-preserved general store that appears to date to the turn of the century. Located on Cross Street north of its intersection with Virginia Street, the former Betty Garnett's Variety Store was originally built on Virginia Street but moved to its present location when Cross Street was extended north. It is a two-story, gable-fronted, frame building clad in asbestos shingles, and features an original storefront with recessed entrance.

Early-twentieth-century commercial buildings include two rusticated cast-concrete block structures on Virginia Street. One (The Green Front Store/Country Casuals Store) is a one-story, flat-roofed, two-unit commercial building with well-preserved storefronts, while the other (the Laundromat) is a one-story building with stepped parapet sides and a fanciful cast-metal panel with bracketed cornice situated above the storefront. For many years this building served as the Silver Slipper Lounge.

Five other early-twentieth-century commercial buildings are situated in a row on the east side of Cross Street. The Sentinel Building, once the printing office of the local newspaper, is a long rectangular, hip-roofed, frame building that has been considerably altered. Next door is the one-story, concrete block building originally built around 1930 as C. H. Palmer Garage. Its most distinctive feature is a stepped parapet across the front. Adjacent to the former garage is the Regal Building, a two-story hip-roofed building with a rusticated cast-concrete block first floor and a frame and asbestos shingle-clad second floor. It features original storefronts on the first floor, a bracketed pent roof between floors, and paired two-over-two-sash second-story front windows. The building now houses the Greenwood Printing Co.

and the Urbanna Town Office. Taylor Hardware is housed in a large, two-story, gable-fronted, frame and weatherboarded building that was constructed between 1921 and 1925. Built for Hampden and Margaret Hoge as a general store and furniture business, it exhibits a full-length porch across the front and exposed rafter ends under wide overhanging eaves. The neighboring small one-story, gable-fronted, frame building to the north was originally built as an office around 1930. It is a simple building with a three-bay facade. A similar building (now Treakle Insurance Co.) is located directly across the street.

The largest and most prominent commercial building in Urbanna is the Bank of Middlesex located on the west side of Cross Street. Built in 1900-01, it is an imposing three-story, hip-roofed, brick building with wide overhanging eaves, rusticated brick pilasters, and round-arched third-story windows. An example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture, it has long been a focal point for the commercial district of Urbanna; by 1902 it also housed the local Masonic lodge and later the post office, town council chambers, and library. Despite the building's altered first-floor front and modern addition to the south, it is a surprisingly sophisticated building not commonly found in small Tidewater towns.

Urbanna Baptist Church, located on Watling Street, is one of the finest examples of Carpenter Gothic-style churches in the Tidewater region. Built in 1896 by local builder/architect Charles H. Palmer, the gable-roofed frame building features pointed-arched two-over-two-sash windows with corresponding louvered shutters, a central front projecting entrance tower with octagonal belfry and pointed roof surmounted by an iron finial, and flamboyant sawn bargeboards and bracketed entrance hood.

Charles H. Palmer designed and built many of Urbanna's commercial and residential buildings from 1874 until his death in 1904. After spending seven years training as a carpenter in New York, he returned to Urbanna and operated a construction workshop behind the Methodist church on Cross Street. Some of the buildings he designed and built that are still standing include: the Palmer-Chowning House, the dwelling he constructed for his family on Watling Street in 1875; the 1876 R. S. Bristow House on Cross Street; the 1876 Genders House on Prince George Street; and the 1896 Urbanna Baptist Church. He also built the town's first Masonic hall, which once stood at the corner of Cross and Watling streets.

Residences dating from the first decades of the twentieth century tended to be Colonial Revival-inspired brick and frame dwellings, bungalows, or American Foursquare types. An unusual example of a Colonial Revival-style house is Glenlochan, situated on a wooded lot facing Watling Street. The present house, built in 1907, replaced an eighteenth-century frame dwelling that was located nearer the street. Glenlochan is a large rectangular, two-story, frame dwelling with a symmetrical five-bay facade, central entrance sheltered by a small porch, and tripartite second-story front windows. A nearby outbuilding is believed to have served as the kitchen of the earlier house.

A good example of a typical bungalow of the period is the Desimone House located on Virginia Street. It is a one-and-one-half-story frame and weatherboarded building with a screened full-length front porch and a clipped gable roof. Adjacent to this house is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style. Built around 1936 as a tile and brick veneer dwelling, the Urbanna Methodist Church parsonage is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, Flemish-bond brick structure with gable dormers across the front. Its multi-paned windows are topped by jack arches with keystones and the central entrance is highlighted by a fanlight and sidelights.

A typical example of an American Foursquare dwelling of the 1920s is the former residence, currently occupied by the H. Herbert Stanley accounting firm, located on Prince George Street. It is a two-and-one-half-story, square, hip-roofed, frame building clad in weatherboard on the first floor and wood shingles on the second floor. Situated on a cast-concrete block foundation and topped by a flat tile roof, the building displays a variety of textures and building materials.

The 1921 and 1936 Sanborn Insurance Company maps of Urbanna indicate a number of industries and water-related businesses located along the town's waterfront. These establishments included: the J. W. Hurley Oyster Packing Co., the R. A. Davis & Co. Ice Plant (by 1936 Urbanna Ice Co.), Southside Marine Railway and Supply Co., Dixie Pickling Co. (by 1936 Borton Pickling Co.), Texas Oil Co. (later Texaco, Inc.), and the Smith Brothers & Webb Broom Factory. None of these businesses survive today; most were victims of the Great Depression and the emergence of modern shipping methods that are unrelated to the water. Today the dominant waterfront industries are the Southern States, Inc. granary, Urbanna Marine Corp., and Southside Marine Service, which builds and repairs custom-designed boats. The major buildings and

structures associated with these industries are considered noncontributing elements of the historic district; however, a few small buildings and docks date to the early twentieth century and remain the sole tangible reminders of a once-thriving waterfront.

Altogether, the historic resources of the Urbanna Historic District are a unique collection of buildings and structures that offers a variety of building types and architectural styles. The resources range from a mid-eighteenth-century Georgian mansion to a 1940 vernacular dwelling with few periods in Urbanna's rich three-hundred-year history that are not represented by surviving architecture.

David A. Edwards

URBANNA HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

NOTE: LOCATION OF RESOURCE KEYED TO SKETCH MAP; ALL RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTING UNLESS INDICATED THUS: (NC)

VIRGINIA STREET - north side

Bldg. 1	1801-1805 brick Federal-style dwelling known as the Old Customs House and since 1934 as Sandwich
Bldg. 2	ca. 1936 brick Colonial Revival-style Methodist Church parsonage
Bldg. 3	1920s frame Bungalow-style Desimone House
Bldg. 4	ca. 1900 frame Queen Anne-style Craine House
Bldg. 5	ca. 1888 frame Victorian vernacular Caskie House
Bldg. 6	ca. 1900 cast-concrete block commercial building: the Laundromat, formerly the Silver Slipper Lounge
Bldg. 7	1939 brick Colonial Revival-style commercial building: Virginia Street Cafe; originally Richardson 5 & 10 Cent Store
Bldg. 8	ca. 1930 brick commercial building: Dollar General Stores
Bldg. 9	ca. 1910 cast-concrete block commercial building: Green Front Store
Bldg. 10	late 1940s brick modern Rappanna Theatre (NC)
Bldg. 11	late 1940s brick and stone Virginia ABC store (NC)
Bldg. 12	1890s frame modified Queen Anne-style dwelling; now Page B. Leslie Accounting
Bldg. 13	1961 brick modern Urbanna Post Office (NC)

Bldg. 14	ca. 1750 brick Georgian-style dwelling: Lansdowne individually listed on National Register
Bldg. 15	ca. 1900 brick Queen Anne-style Van Wagenen House (Marble House)

VIRGINIA STREET - south side

Bldg. 16	ca. 1910 cast-concrete block modified Queen Anne-style Mason House
Bldg. 17	mid-18th-century frame vernacular Wormeley Cottage; individually listed on National Register
Bldg. 18	ca. 1945 concrete block modern commercial building: Urbanna Auto and Marine (NC)
Bldg. 19	ca. 1940 frame commercial building: Southside Sentinel office
Bldg. 20	1923 frame vernacular commercial building: Family Closet
Bldgs. 21 & 22	1940s brick commercial buildings: Urbanna Inn restaurant (NC); Urbanna Inn lodging (NC) (originally Coca-Cola bottling works)
Bldg. 23	ca. 1940 brick commercial building: Urbanna Family Practice
Bldgs. 24 & 25	ca. 1950 concrete block commercial building: Video Adventures (NC); frame barn - contributing
Bldg. 26	1748 brick Old Middlesex County Courthouse (Epiphany Chapel in 1920; Middlesex County Woman's Club since 1948) - individually listed on National Register
Bldg. 27	1898 frame Victorian vernacular commercial building: originally R. S. Bristow Store
Bldg. 28	ca. 1930 frame Bungalow-style Bonner House

Bldg. 29	1960s brick Ranch-style dwelling (NC)
Bldg. 30	ca. 1820 frame vernacular Gressitt House
Bldg. 31	1760s brick vernacular Old Tobacco Warehouse;
EASEMENT →	now used as town library; individually listed on National Register
Bldg. 32	ca. 1940 brick Colonial Revival-style Hurley House

RIVER ROAD - east side

Bldg. 33	1950s frame modern commercial building: Payne's Crab House (NC)
Bldg. 34	1930s frame vernacular commercial building: Southern States, Inc. office
#35	Southern States modern grain silos (NC structure)
Bldg. 35 #36	early-20th-century frame storage building
Bldg. 36	early-20th-century frame storage building
Bldg. 37	early-20th-century frame office
Bldg. 38	ca. 1940 frame marina building: Southside Marine Services
Bldg. 39	ca. 1940 frame marina building: Urbanna Marine Corp.

RIVER ROAD - west side

Bldgs. 40,41,42	ca. 1980 steel frame and metal siding commercial buildings: Southside Marine Service (all NC)
Bldg. 43	1880s frame Victorian vernacular Leaf House
Bldg. 44	ca. 1915 frame vernacular dwelling

RAPPAHANNOCK AVENUE

Bldg. 45 — 1960s frame Ranch-style Sanford House (NC)

Bldg. 46 — ca. 1920 schoolhouse; moved to present location and remodeled in Colonial Revival style ca. 1940

#95 cemetery - contributing site

CROSS STREET - east side

Bldg. 47 — 1970s brick Colonial Revival commercial building: Mason Realty Co. (NC)

Bldg. 48 — 1970s brick Colonial Revival commercial building: Isabell Horsley Real Estate (NC)

Bldg. 49 — ca. 1930 frame vernacular commercial building: The Ketch All

Bldg. 50 — ca. 1921 frame vernacular commercial building: Taylor Hardware

Bldg. 51 — ca. 1930 cast-concrete block commercial building: originally the Regal Building; now Urbanna Town Hall and Greenwood Printing Co.

Bldg. 52 — ca. 1930 cast-concrete block commercial building: originally C. H. Palmer Garage; now Nimcock Gallery

Bldg. 53 — ca. 1900 frame vernacular commercial building: formerly the Sentinel Building; now Liz's Dress Shop

CROSS STREET - west side

Bldg. 54	1876 frame Victorian vernacular R. S. Bristow House; built by local builder Charles H. Palmer
Bldg. 55	1950s concrete block modern Exxon service station (NC)
Bldg. 56	1900-01 brick Romanesque Revival-style Bank of Middlesex (now First Virginia Bank) with 1969 modern addition
Bldg. 57	ca. 1940 brick commercial building: Marshall's Drug with 1961 addition and remodeling (NC)
Bldg. 58	ca. 1930 concrete block vernacular commercial building: Treakle Insurance Co.
Bldg. 59	ca. 1900 frame vernacular commercial building: originally Miss Bettie Garnett's Variety Store; now Miss Bettie's Antiques
Bldg. 60	ca. 1940 concrete block vernacular commercial building: Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

PRINCE GEORGE STREET - north side

Bldg. 61	ca. 1950 concrete block modern commercial building: Urbanna Auto & Marine (NC)
Bldg. 62	1926 frame Bungalow-style Mulligan House
Bldg. 63	1886 frame Victorian vernacular Green House
Bldg. 64	1920s frame American Foursquare-style former dwelling; now H. Herbert Stanley, Accountant

PRINCE GEORGE STREET - south side

Bldg. 65	late-19th-century frame Victorian vernacular I house; now Folliard-Hall Insurance Co.
Bldg. 66	ca. 1900 frame modified Queen Anne-style former dwelling; now The Riemann Companies/The Allen Group, Inc.
Bldg. 67	mid-18th-century frame vernacular Old Tavern; remodeled in Colonial Revival style in 1920s
Bldg. 68	1876 frame Victorian vernacular I house: Genders House (now Atherston Hall)
Bldg. 69	ca. 1890 frame Victorian vernacular Dunlevy House
Bldg. 70	1884 frame Victorian vernacular Fitchett House
Bldg. 71	ca. 1890 frame Victorian vernacular Bray House

WATLING STREET - north side

Bldg. 72	1952 frame Ranch-style dwelling (NC)
Bldg. 73	1890s frame Victorian vernacular Marshall House
Bldg. 74	ca. 1900 frame Queen Anne-style Baptist parsonage
Bldg. 75	1896 frame Carpenter Gothic-style Urbanna Baptist Church built by local builder Charles H. Palmer
Bldg. 76	1950s brick vacant commercial building (NC)
Bldg. 77	1875 frame Victorian commercial building: Haywood's Store
Bldg. 78	1928 frame Bungalow-style Armstrong House
Bldg. 79	ca. 1900 frame vernacular dwelling with early-20th-century additions

Bldg. 80	late-19th-century frame Victorian vernacular McCandless House
Bldg. 81	1882 frame Victorian vernacular Burton House with late-19th-century additions
Bldg. 82	1885 frame vernacular Wyker House with 20th-century additions (NC - due to additions and alterations)
Bldg. 83	ca. 1900 frame vernacular dwelling; now Hair Port beauty salon (NC - due to additions and alterations)
Bldg. 84	ca. 1900 frame vernacular dwelling; now Parisi Patriot Publishing Co.

WATLING STREET - south side

Bldg. 85	ca. 1930 frame vernacular dwelling; now Price's Art & Antiques
Bldgs. 86 & 87 #86	1907 frame Colonial Revival-style Glenlochan; frame 18th-century outbuilding
Bldg. 88	1940s brick Colonial Revival-style Vaughan House (NC)
Bldg. 89	1875 frame Victorian vernacular Palmer-Chowning House built by local builder Charles H. Palmer
Bldg. 90	1890s frame Victorian vernacular Pollok House
Bldg. 91	1909 frame vernacular Faulkner-Pond House
Bldg. 92	1950s brick Colonial Revival-style Richardson House (NC)
Bldg. 93	1890s frame Victorian vernacular Smith House
Bldg. 94	1940s frame Colonial Revival-style Robins House (NC)

7. ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION - continued

CARPENTER GOTHIC
ROMANESQUE REVIVAL
COLONIAL REVIVAL
BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN

three-hundred-year history of the community, from the mid-eighteenth to the early twentieth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Urbanna is the oldest town in Middlesex County, Virginia. The county, which had a population of only 7,700 in 1980, is one of the least populous in the state. It has always had few inhabitants; in 1668, the year before the county was formed from Lancaster County, its citizens numbered only 912.[1]

In 1669 most of the new county's population lived along the road that rambled from its western border with Essex County generally eastward to Stingray Point on the Chesapeake Bay. The road's course measured almost thirty-five miles; it followed the spine of the county between the Rappahannock River on the north and the Piankatank River and Dragon Swamp on the south. Present-day Routes 17 and 33 follow much the same path.

The road served the internal needs of Middlesex County, linking its farms and eighty-three households one to the other. The creeks and rivers that flowed into Chesapeake Bay formed the highways that led to the outside world; to travel any distance one went by boat, not overland.

The new county had no towns or villages. Its citizens lived on tracts of land ranging in size from small farms to large plantations. Among them a few stores were scattered to meet their needs and serve as conduits to the outside world.

Neither the county's residents nor the colonial government in Jamestown were pleased by the general lack of towns or market centers in Virginia. The House of Burgesses made several efforts to encourage their creation during the seventeenth century, beginning in the 1650s. Politics and revolutions in England, however, kept the bills from receiving the support and approval they needed to become law.

Despite the difficulties the dream of a town for Middlesex County remained alive in the minds of the county's leading citizens, especially in the mind of the foremost citizen of all, Ralph Wormeley, of Rosegill. Wormeley owned a spit of land on the Rappahannock River that was ideal for a new town. It was bounded by Perkins Creek on the west and Rosegill Creek (now Urbanna Creek)

on the east; across Rosegill Creek lay Wormeley's plantation and house. Near its confluence with the Rappahannock, Rosegill Creek was wide and deep enough to form a small harbor where vessels might safely anchor. In 1680 the merchants and justices of Middlesex County proposed to Ralph Wormeley that he sell the land adjacent to his plantation for a town.

Wormeley agreed and the town was surveyed in the irregular grid pattern that still exists but the land remained in his hands, although he accepted ten thousand pounds of tobacco for the tract. For the rest of the decade the county officers and Wormeley conferred from time to time; he consistently refused to sign a deed, however, unless the justices granted him privileges that would have made the new town his virtual fiefdom. Although lots were sold and a few false starts were made at constructing dwellings, the town was not established until between 1704 and 1708, after Wormeley's death.

Named Urbanna in 1706, the new town grew quickly. Impelling the growth were the tobacco warehouse acts passed by the House of Burgesses in 1713 and 1730. The acts provided for the establishment of public tobacco warehouses and inspection stations at various points around the colony. Urbanna was one such place; the comings and goings of ships and tobacco attracted merchants--who had quickly flocked to the new town anyway--and it soon became the center of trade for Middlesex County. Its good harbor and location near the Rappahannock River offered its residents easy access to the world that could be reached by water.[2]

The town developed initially along its two principal streets--Virginia Street, which ran west from Urbanna Creek, and Cross Street, which extended to the south from Virginia Street. By 1747 Prince George Street paralleled Virginia Street to its south, and various lanes led from Virginia Street to Urbanna Creek, which also could be reached from Cross Street by way of meandering Watling Street. The development of the town began near the creek and followed the streets to the west.

Urbanna did not become a courthouse town until 1748. The battle over the location of the Middlesex County courthouse had raged since the 1680s, with the county justices refusing for years to move it from its central location along the main road a few miles south of the town. Finally the proponents of Urbanna prevailed and the town got its courthouse, which was built with a jail and clerk's office on a lot long reserved for it. There court was held

for the next hundred years until, after another bitter wrangle, it was moved once more in 1849 to Saluda, not far from where it had been before. The old Urbanna courthouse still stands, although much altered during various incarnations as a church and a woman's club. It remains, nonetheless, one of only eleven surviving colonial courthouses in the state.

Although the town served as the local government center, the real business of Urbanna was business, and the heart of that business was tobacco. Wharves poked into the town harbor and ships sailed in and out with their hogsheads of tobacco and trade goods. Merchants built warehouses and stores to receive them; one such facility, constructed in the 1760s for factor James Mills, still stands on Virginia Street near the waterfront and serves presently as the town library. By 1770 the customs office, which earlier most likely was located in the house of the customs collector, was in its own building. In that year John Williams, the royal customs inspector who was touring Virginia, reported that

> The custom house is a good brick building. It consists of three rooms, one large and two small ones; and no part of it is occupied for any other purpose. And I think it reasonable at a rent of ten pounds per annum.[3]

The office building, in other words, was privately owned and leased to the customs collector. It may have stood, for the sake of convenience, near the wharves.

With the exception of the 1760s Mills storehouse, none of the eighteenth-century commercial buildings that once crowded lower Virginia Street have survived. Most of the town's extant retail enterprises date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Since that time the commercial core of the town has extended from the intersection of Virginia and Cross streets, to the west on Virginia Street and to the south on Cross Street. The R. S. Bristow general store, constructed in 1898 on the southwestern corner of Virginia and Cross streets, is typical of other such structures that once stood in almost every Virginia town and village. Another general store from about the turn of the century was known to the town's residents as Miss Betty Garnett's Variety Store when it stood on Virginia Street; it was moved to its present location on Cross Street just north of Virginia Street in the 1930s and is still operated as a store. At the south end of town, on Watling Street, stands Haywood's Store, which was constructed in

1875. A frame structure, the store with its distinctive two-story front porch is the first prominent landmark a visitor sees when approaching the town from the bridge over Urbanna Creek.[4]

In 1900 Urbanna finally got its own bank, the Bank of Middlesex. It was founded in the Bristow store but immediately the directors began the construction of the impressive brick Romanesque Revival structure that stands on Cross Street. Although it has received a modern addition to its south, the bank building remains the most sophisticated commercial structure in Urbanna, as well as home to the largest bank in the region.[5]

Most of the other commercial structures on Virginia and Cross streets were built in the first and second quarters of the twentieth century. They include the former printing office of the local newspaper (the Sentinel), hardware stores, garages, clothing stores, beauty parlors, and barber shops.

The churches of Urbanna reflect the religious life of the community. During the colonial period and well into the nineteenth century the town had no church; Anglican worshipers rode by Wormeley's Rosegill to Christ Church (NRHP 1972) a short distance away. Although the town lacked a church, it did not lack for sermons; in 1771 the pioneer Baptist minister John Waller was arrested, tried in the courthouse, and confined in jail for preaching sermons inimical to the interests of the established church. Ironically, the very courthouse where Waller stood trial was in 1852 turned into an interdenominational house of worship, after the court moved to Saluda.

As the nineteenth century progressed, the numbers of Baptists and Methodists increased to the point that they decided to construct their own churches and abandon the old courthouse to the Episcopalians. In 1896 congregation of Urbanna Baptist Church, which had been organized in 1888, constructed its own church building on Watling Street. The sanctuary was widened in 1903 and the entire structure was moved a few feet in 1954 to the center of its lot, the better to accommodate a new addition to the rear of the church.[6]

Urbanna's Methodists constructed their own church on Cross Street next to the Bank of Middlesex in 1907. Bishop James Cannon, one of the leading prohibitionists in the state, preached the dedication sermon in June 1907. The brick Urbanna Methodist Church remained a prominent landmark until 1961 when it was demolished and an

addition to the bank was constructed on the site.[7]

The Episcopal congregation, meanwhile, acquired the old courthouse in 1907 and remodeled it for use as a chapel. Dedicated as Epiphany Chapel in 1920, it was sold to the Middlesex County Woman's Club in 1949 and Christ Church, Middlesex, once again became the center of Episcopal worship in the area. The old courthouse was used both as a clubhouse and as the town library until 1967 when the library was moved to the Mills storehouse.[8]

As the town grew during the eighteenth century it developed some of the amenities typical of Tidewater towns of the period. Besides its retail stores, the town had two taverns by the late eighteenth century. None of the early retail stores survive, but one of the taverns, located on Prince George Street, still stands although it has been greatly altered. The tavern and the courthouse are the only two structures mentioned in connection with the Civil War in local histories. Once when a passing Union gunboat fired a few shells into the town, three of them struck the old courthouse but except for blowing a door to pieces did no serious damage. On another occasion a Confederate boat was chased into Urbanna Creek, where her captain scuttled her rather than let her be captured. One of the principal social events of the war was a ball held at the Old Tavern on Prince George Street for the Confederate officers who were camped nearby.[9]

Although roads and bridges led to Urbanna, between the founding of the town and the 1940s most commercial traffic sailed up the Rappahannock River and into Urbanna Creek. In the eighteenth century the vessels commonly were oceangoing craft that plied the waters between England and the colonies, bringing cloth and porcelain and other goods and taking away Virginia tobacco. By the late eighteenth century, however, the commerce was dominated by coastal schooners that carried on their trade among the states of the eastern seaboard. As the nineteenth century progressed, the water commerce increasingly became centered on the Chesapeake Bay and the specially-constructed schooners that sailed its waters.

The Chesapeake Bay schooners, which were almost smaller versions of the seagoing clipper ships, carried a vast variety of cargo: lumber, ice, canned goods, coal, fertilizer, and manufactured goods. In 1903 one ship brought 190,000 North Carolina shingles and 60,000 bricks.

By the late nineteenth century the schooners were facing competi-

tion from the flourishing steamboat lines that operated between Baltimore and such Virginia river towns as Fredericksburg. Many of the steamboats were of shallow enough draft that they could dock in such deep streams as Urbanna Creek.

> The Weems Line, the Western Shore Steamboat Co., the Maryland Delaware and Virginia Railway Co., and the Baltimore and Virginia Steamboat Company were the main lines scheduling Urbanna runs. Urbanna freight in 1909 of 31,877 tons was valued at over one million dollars. Shipments were mainly lumber, cordwood, railroad ties, farm products, canned goods, fruit, poultry, fish, oysters, and game.[10]

Motorized truck traffic over improved roads, coupled with the Depression, meant the end of the steamer service.

Before the Depression, however, the increasing maritime commerce of the early 1900s brought about a corresponding expansion of related business activities:

> By 1900, 500 tons of hay were shipped out annually, and 5 million feet of sawed lumber and railroad ties. At least ten [hundred-ton] sailing vessels were owned locally. In 1908, in addition to ten mercantile firms, [there] were two canneries, two pickle factories, an ice plant, cement works, [and an] overall factory. The largest excelsior plant in Virginia sold its products to buggy and wagon makers and furniture companies all over the country.[11]

Besides the products of the land, the harvest of fish, crabs, and oysters from the water meant a continuing source of income for the town's residents even after the decline in the tobacco trade and other forms of commerce. The demand for oysters and crabs always had been strong during the nineteenth century, and the invention of refrigerated railroad cars after the Civil War resulted in an expanded market for the delicacies, particularly oysters. When it became possible to transport eastern oysters by rail to the West Coast, the competition for a share of the market led to overharvesting and "oyster wars" between Virginia and Maryland

oystermen. By the end of the century the disputes largely had been resolved, the seeding of oyster beds had become an accepted practice, and Urbanna's oyster-packing industry was reaping the financial benefits.

By the first quarter of the twentieth century several oyster-packing plants operated in and around Urbanna. They included J. W. Hurley's Oyster House, which in 1916 employed forty-five shuckers and bought all the oysters that a hundred oystermen could catch. Thirty shuckers worked at Captain D. M. Nelson's Oyster House and shucked a thousand bushels of oysters each, while at Green, Bristow and Company nearby thirty shuckers processed thirty-five thousand bushels. One of the largest plants was the R. A. Davis house, which employed perhaps a hundred shuckers.[12]

The rapid spread of the MSX virus in the 1940s almost destroyed the oyster beds of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries including the Rappahannock River. Urbanna's packing industry largely survived the disaster, however, because it was so well-established. It included other packaging facilities besides those related only to oysters--for instance, the Davis, Hurley, Kriete, and Lord Mott vegetable canneries; four or five pickle factories, and the Kennard ice plant. Also, rather than rely solely on the depleted Rappahannock beds, the processors purchased oysters wherever they could be harvested and continued in operation. Today Urbanna maintains its reputation as the oyster capital of Virginia through its annual oyster festival, which began in 1958 and has grown more popular each year since.[13]

Most of the dwellings in Urbanna, at least at first, probably were simple frame structures such as the small, weatherboarded, mid-eighteenth-century house known as the Wormeley Cottage that stands on Virginia Street near the western edge of the district. Just across the street stands a far grander example of a dwelling from the same period: Lansdowne, which supposedly was constructed for Ralph Wormeley IV, the namesake of the town's reluctant patron. In the 1760s it was owned by James Mills, the builder of the storehouse near the creek. This two-story mansion with its fine rubbed brick must have been the most elegant house in town when it was built. About fifty years later a more modest but still substantial dwelling was constructed across Virginia Street from the Mills storehouse by Overton Cosby, a county justice and sometime member of the House of Delegates in the late eighteenth century. His house, a sturdy story-and-a-half brick dwelling with three rooms on the first floor, still stands on its large shady lot. It was

during the heyday of the town's prosperity as an oyster processing center in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that many eighteenth- and mid-nineteenth-century structures were demolished to make room for many of the dwellings now standing in the district. One of the most notable Victorian-era buildings, the Van Wagenen house on Virginia Street next to Lansdowne, was built about 1900 by Lord Byron Van Wagenen, whose family owned an oyster house as well as a pickle factory. The handsome two-story brick residence is Urbanna's finest example of the Queen Anne style.

That many of the Victorian residences in the district have survived is due in part to the town's resurgence as a summer resort community. The steamers that docked at Urbanna in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries carried passengers as well as freight. Although many of them traveled on business, some came as tourists. Earlier in the century visitors stayed either in private houses or in the town's taverns. By 1847, however, the now-vanished Farmers Exchange Hotel had been constructed next to the Old Tavern. The Ross House was constructed about 1875 on Watling Street near Haywood's Store; it competed with the Hotel Nelson, which was built in 1896 on the west side of town, for business travelers and summer tourists. Two other hotels popular in the early twentieth century were the Burton House and the Hotel Riverton.[14]

Although none of the early hotels survive except the Burton House on Watling Street (others have been constructed in different locations), they helped to establish Urbanna as a popular summer resort. Besides staying in the hotels, the "summer people" lodged in private dwellings (several bed-and-breakfasts operate today), and eventually nonresidents purchased lots and built summer cottages and compounds. Many of them arrived at the town docks in steamers or drove overland in automobiles, while others sailed their own boats into Urbanna's harbor. Eventually marinas and piers were constructed to care for these craft. The "summer people" soon became as much a mainstay of the local economy as the water trade and its related industries.[15]

The long history of Urbanna is well represented in the Urbanna Historic District. Its streets still reflect the town plan adopted in the early eighteenth century. In its surviving general stores and the Mills storehouse one can read the history of the mercantile activities that drove the town's economy for so many years, from the days of the tobacco trade to its present-day tourist-based economy. The old courthouse, with its many and varied uses, serves as a reminder of the political controversies surrounding the

location of the county court, and the adaptability of the townspeople to changing circumstances. Within the district Urbanna's residences reflect the changing tastes of the town's businessmen as their fortunes rose and fell with the economic climate. As a whole, the district retains the ambience of a late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century freshwater port town--an ambience that is valued by residents, "summer people," and tourists alike.

John S. Salmon

ENDNOTES

1. Emily J. Salmon, ed., A Hornbook of Virginia History, 3rd ed. (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1983), 114; Darrett B. Rutman and Anita H. Rutman, A Place in Time: Middlesex County, Virginia, 1650-1750 (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1984), 71.

2. The foregoing account of Urbanna's founding is taken largely from Rutman, A Place in Time, 204-233.

3. Joseph R. Frese, ed., "The Royal Customs Service in the Chesapeake, 1770: The Reports of John Williams, Inspector General," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 81 (1973): 292-293.

4. Ryland, Urbanna, 24, 30; Louise E. Gray et al., Historic Buildings in Middlesex County, Virginia, 1650-1875, ed. Walter C. C. Johnson ([Middlesex County, Va.]: Middlesex County Bicentennial Committee, 1978), 311.

5. Ryland, Urbanna, 89-90.

6. Ibid., 96-97.

7. Ibid., 97-98.

8. Gray et al., Historic Buildings, 164; Ryland, Urbanna, 95.

9. Ryland, Urbanna, 50.

10. Ibid., 68.

11. Jessie M. DeBusk et al., Family Histories of Middlesex County, Virginia (Salem, W.Va.: Ralph Wormeley Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1982), 249.

12. Ryland, Urbanna, 80-81.

13. Ibid., 84-87.

14. Ibid., 38-41.

15. Ibid., 42-43.

Architectural Survey Files 316 (General); 316-1 through 316-8. Department of Historic Resources. Richmond, Va.

DeBusk, Jessie M., et al. Family Histories of Middlesex County, Virginia. Salem, W.Va.: Ralph Wormeley Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1982.

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Sanborn Insurance Company. Maps. Urbanna. 1921; 1936. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NOTE: REFER TO TOWN PLAT MAP FOR BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point A located on the north side of Virginia Street opposite the northwest corner of the lot containing the Mason House (Bldg. 16); thence approximately 260' east to a point B located at the northeast corner of Virginia Street and Rappahannock Ave; thence approximately 720' north to a point C located at the northwest corner of the Lansdowne property (Bldg.14); thence approximately 540' southeast along the Lansdowne northern property line to a point D located at the northeast corner of the Lansdowne property; thence approximately 180' north to a point E located at the northwest corner of the lot containing Miss Bettie's Antiques (Bldg. 59); thence approximately 180' east to a point F located on the east side of Cross Street directly opposite the northeast corner of the said lot; thence approximately 360' south to a point G located at the northwest corner of the lot containing the Laundromat (Bldg. 6); thence approximately 70' east to a point H located at the northeast corner of said lot; thence approximately 200' north to a point I located at the northwest corner of the lot containing the Caskie House (Bldg. 5); thence approximately 1,300' east along the north property lines of the houses facing Virginia Street to Urbanna Creek and then directly east to the Town of Urbanna's eastern corporate limits in the middle of the creek to a point J; thence approximately 1,100' south along the corporate town limits to a point K; thence approximately 500' west by southwest to a point L located on the south side of Watling Street directly opposite the southeast corner of the lot containing Bldg.84; thence approximately 400' north along the south side of Watling Street to a point M located at the intersection of Watling Street and Route 227; thence approximately 440' south along the east side of Route 227 to a point N located at the town's southern corporate limits; thence approximately 2,100' northwest along the town's southern corporate limits to a point O located at the southwest corner of the lot containing the Mason House (Bldg.16); thence approximately 200' north along the western property line of said lot to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Urbanna Historic District contains the town's largest concentration of historic resources. Coinciding with property lines and the town's corporate limits when possible, the district

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Urbanna waterfront at Urbanna Creek, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
David A. Edwards, photographer
June 1990
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking east
Photo 1 of 22

Virginia Street and Old Tobacco Warehouse, Urbanna Historic District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
David A. Edwards, photographer
June 1990
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking west
Photo 2 of 22

Old Middlesex County Courthouse
Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District,
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking southeast
Photo 3 of 22

Lansdowne, Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Calder C. Loth, photographer
June 1990
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking north
Photo 4 of 22

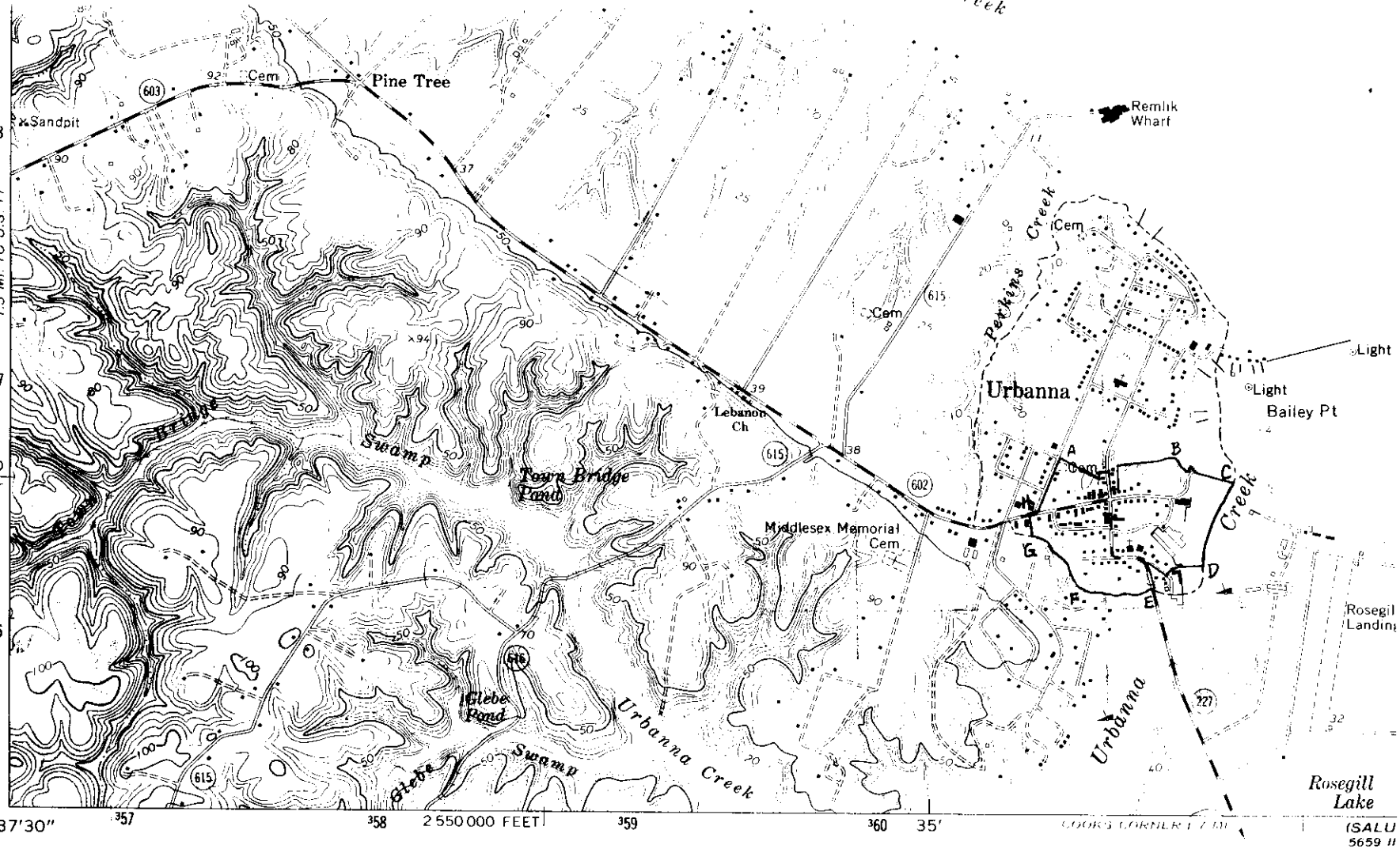
Wormeley Cottage, Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking southwest
Photo 5 of 22

boundaries exclude large collections of noncontributing buildings and vacant land on the edges of the delineated district. Buildings on the west side of Rappahannock Avenue, the east side of Cross Street north of its intersection with Virginia Street, and on Virginia Street west of the district's western boundary were excluded from the district because most of them are considered noncontributing. Modern subdivisions exist to the north and south of the district and, therefore, were excluded also.

UTM References - continued

E 18/361180/4166080
F 18/360940/4166060
G 18/360710/4166300
H 18/360700/4166380

URBANNA
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
UTM REFERENCES
A: 18|360820|4166600
B: 18|361280|4166600
C: 18|361520|4166500
D: 18|361400|4166160
E: 18|361180|4166080
F: 18|360940|4166060
G: 18|360710|4166300
H: 18|360700|4166380



(SHACKLEFORDS)
5659 II SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Supersedes U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map dated 1946

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 605-SC (1969)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

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17 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Old Tobacco Warehouse, Virginia Street,
Urbanna Historic District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County,
Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking south
Photo 6 of 22

Old Tavern, Prince George Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
June 1990
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking southwest
Photo 7 of 22

Sandwich, Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District,
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northwest
Photo 8 of 22

Gressitt House, Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking southeast
Photo 9 of 22

Palmer-Chowning House, Watling Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking south
Photo 10 of 22

Baptist Parsonage, Watling Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northwest
Photo 11 of 22

Van Wagenen House (Marble House), Virginia Street,
Urbanna Historic District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Va.
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northwest
Photo 12 of 22

R. S. Bristow Store, Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking southwest
Photo 13 of 22

Miss Bettie Garnett's Variety Store, Cross Street, Urbanna Historic
District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
David A. Edwards, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking west
Photo 14 of 22

Laundromat (Silver Slipper), Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic
District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northwest
Photo 15 of 22

Taylor Hardware, Cross Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northeast
Photo 16 of 22

Cross Street, showing Bank of Middlesex, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking southwest
Photo 17 of 22

Cross and Watling streets, showing Baptist Parsonage, Urbanna Baptist Church, and Haywood's Store, Urbanna Historic District,
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking east
Photo 18 of 22

Urbanna Baptist Church, Watling Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking north
Photo 19 of 22

Methodist Parsonage, Virginia Street, Urbanna Historic District
Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
Julie Vosmik, photographer
April 1988
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking north
Photo 20 of 22

American Foursquare-style dwelling, Prince George Street, Urbanna Historic District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
June 1990
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northwest
Photo 21 of 22

Southern States, Inc. grain silos (noncontributing structure), River Road, Urbanna Historic District, Town of Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia
David A. Edwards, photographer
June 1990
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
View looking northeast
Photo 22 of 22