

VLR - 6/19/84
NRHP - 8/16/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT (VHLC File #66-83)

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 360/VA Route 644 N/A not for publication

city, town Reedville N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 count~ Northumberland code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bath	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number N/A

city, town Reedville N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22539

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northumberland County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Heathsville state Virginia 22473

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
title Survey (File #66-83) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

Richmond state Virginia 23219

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1870s to Present **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Reedville in Northumberland County stands on a peninsula of Virginia's Northern Neck near the confluence of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The picturesque and charming maritime village arose after the Civil War as a consequence of the successful introduction of the menhaden industry from New England to Virginia by Elijah Reed. Menhaden, small bony fish that become especially abundant in Virginia's waters in the summer, replaced the whale as America's primary source of oil after 1860. A captain of the new industry, Reed established the first menhaden factory on the point in 1875, and is generally credited with the efforts that led to the establishment of fifteen menhaden factories at Reedville by 1885. While preserving a number of modest frame dwellings erected in the 1870s after New England prototypes by the Reed family for factory workmen and relatives, the historic district largely reflects the prosperity of the village in its turn-of-the-century heyday. The district features an unusually fine collection of late Victorian and early 20th-century residences built for wealthy industrialists, sea captains, and merchants.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As Virginians entered the last quarter of the 19th century, the area of settlement presently called Reedville was exclusively rural and associated with large plantations. The land, no longer suitable for tobacco crops and too far north for cotton, lay isolated on the sparsely populated Northern Neck, a region separated from the rest of the Commonwealth by the two-mile-wide Rappahannock River, and from Maryland by the ten-mile-wide Potomac. Without access to a railroad (none was ever built), Richmond remained a three-day journey.¹ The area, having no strategic value because of its isolation, was spared the havoc of the Civil War but not the general post-war depression. During Reconstruction only a few structures existed in the vicinity of present-day Reedville. Originally known as Windmill Point, the peninsula on which the town of Reedville is located is formed by two branches of Cockrell Creek where they are channeled into the Chesapeake Bay. On the apex of the peninsula stood a windmill used to grind grain. Nearby was a hand-hewn, one-room, one-story, sharp-gabled building with a cedar shingled roof, that served in the antebellum period as a store.² Both the windmill and the store served neighboring farms along Cockrell Creek; unfortunately, neither structure has survived. Such were the circumstances of Windmill Point in 1874 when Captain Elijah Reed ventured into the Chesapeake Bay in search of an abundance of menhaden fish.

Brevoortia tyrannus, or menhaden, are relatively small bony fish averaging twelve inches in length and weighing about one pound. They populate the shores and inlets of the Atlantic seacoast in abundance and swim in immense schools, hovering close to the surface. Menhaden are easily trapped, but prior to the 1860s, their

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #15)

Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society. Vols. IV, 1967; VIII, 1970; XI, 1974; XIII, 1976; XIV, 1977; XV, 1978; XVI, 1979; XVII, 1980.
Bureau of Labour Statistics, Virginia. Annual Report 1903-1913.
Frye, John. The Story of Menhaden Fishing. Norfolk: Downing, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 49 acres

Quadrangle name Reedville, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	8	7	7	4	0	4	1	8	9	3	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	3	8	7	7	0	0	4	1	8	9	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	3	8	7	3	5	0	4	1	8	8	6	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	3	8	7	3	1	0	4	1	8	8	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	8	3	8	7	6	4	0	4	1	8	8	4	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	8	3	8	7	8	4	0	4	1	8	8	7	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

1	8	3	8	7	9	0	0	4	1	8	9	0	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

1	8	3	8	7	9	7	0	4	1	8	9	3	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification (Points refer to Map 1 of 2) Beginning at a point (A) located on the S side of VA Route 722; thence approximately 200' S along the rear property line of lot 22 to a point (B) located on a branch of Cockrell Creek; thence following
(See Continuation Sheet #16)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

organization VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION date May 1984

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

date June 19, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

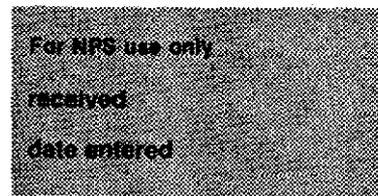
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #1 Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

before constructing his house. As the name of the house implies, the interplay of various pitched gables at three different levels is an important element of its design. The house is basically a square brick building with a sweeping cross gable roof. An arcaded brick loggia with an entrance portico extends across the front and a brick porte cochere projects to the south. These three mansions are set back from the street and are surrounded by sweeping lawns which enhance their grand appearance.

North of the mansions on the Point are rows of neatly maintained frame houses mostly dating from the late 19th or early 20th century. Most of these two-story dwellings have gable ends that face the street and feature shingled gables and sawnwork, while others feature projecting front eaves or central front gables with cornice returns. Despite their differences, every house in the district built before 1930 has one common feature: a front porch usually extending entirely across the facade and supported by turned posts or Tuscan columns with a turned balustrade, no balustrade, or fully screened. Some of the porches display fanciful scroll brackets and spindle friezes, but however different they are in design, these porches contribute to the steady sense of architectural rhythm in the streetscape.

Situated near the center of the district at a sharp bend in VA Route 644 are two public buildings which were constructed around the turn of the century: the Reedville Masonic Hall (lot 103) and Bethany Methodist Church (lot 28). Both buildings are well executed brick structures of different styles. The Masonic Hall is a two-story Colonial Revival, temple-form structure laid in Flemish-bond brick. It has a full front pediment, a molded wood cornice, Doric brick pilasters across the front, and brick jackarches with stone keystones over the windows. The entrance is highlighted by double doors surrounded by Greek Revival trim below a bracketed hood. Bethany Methodist Church, started in 1899, is a Gothic Revival church that is typical of its period, featuring steeply-pitched cross gables, large stained-glass pointed-arched windows, and a tall bell tower with an open belfry and a pyramidal spire. The church was once described as one of the handsomest churches on the Northern Neck.

A row of five modified Queen Anne houses, located on the west side of U.S. Route 360 begins north of the church and extends to the northern district boundary (Route 722). Familiarly known as "Millionaires Row," these large frame houses (lots 22-26), although not elaborately decorative, are fine examples of turn-of-the-century architecture. All of them are massive, 2½-story frame buildings with projecting gabled pavilions, steep hipped roofs, and the ever-present front wraparound porch supported by Doric or Ionic columns. Separated from the street by tree-shaded lawns, these grand houses collectively present a picturesque grouping of varied architectural designs dating from the same period.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Early 20th-century houses are located mostly on the east side of U.S. Route 360 near the northern district boundary. Examples include bungalows and a Dutch Colonial design; however, one of the most interesting houses of the period is a Sears and Roebuck Company model house (lot 85) that the owner ordered by catalogue ca. 1920. It is a small two-story, frame house with a clipped gable roof and a porch across the front.

Besides residences, three notable commercial buildings are located in the district. Reedville Market, the former Blundon and Hinton Department Store (lot 82), was built in the late 19th century. Despite a 20th-century porch enclosure or front extension, the building has retained its basic original character as seen in the upper story fenestration and bracketed cornice with returns. Reed and Rice Store (lot 74), built in 1913 at the Point, is a frame two-story building with a bracketed cornice, two storefront entrances flanked by plate-glass windows, and a porch which extends across the front. It is the only pre-1925 building at the Point to have survived a fire of that year, which destroyed the old menhaden factories at the waterfront. The former People's Bank of Reedville, presently the Bank of Virginia, was built in 1910 near the Point. This yellow brick, single-story, Colonial Revival building features a projecting full-pedimented tetrastyle Tuscan portico and segmental-arched windows. It is the most distinguished commercial structure in Reedville.

There are no longer any menhaden factories at the waterfront mainly due to the 1925 fire. In their place stand various 20th-century frame and cinderblock warehouses, abandoned stores, and sheds associated with Reedville Ice and Seafood, Inc. and Fleeton Machine Works.

In the center of the district on the west side of VA Route 644 stands a visible reminder of the town's founder. The memorial to Elijah Reed and other members of his family (lot 47) consists of a tall marble obelisk enclosed by a decorative wrought-iron fence.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- InventoryROUTE 360

Lot 22 (Jett House): Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch, Doric columns, turned balustrade.

Lot 23: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch, Ionic columns, turned balustrade.

Lot 24: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch, Doric columns, simple balustrade.

Lot 25: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 4 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch, Doric columns, turned balustrade. Corner towers clad in shingles.

Lot 26: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard/shingle); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, Doric columns, turned balustrade.

Lot 27: Detached house. Victorian Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, Doric columns, screened. Jigsaw work at gables.

*Lot 27A: Detached house. Contemporary. 1970s. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 7 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, square posts. Noncontributing.

Lot 28 (Bethany United Methodist Church): Church. Gothic Revival. July 4, 1899. Brick (irregular bond); 1 story; gable roof (slate); 4 bays. Brick bell tower with pyramidal steeple and open belfry.

Lot 29: Vacant lot.

TE 644: Lot 30: Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay screened porch. Shingled gable.

Lot 31: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays. Center brick chimney.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

ROUTE 644

Lot 32: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay screened porch, turned posts. Gable end fronts street.

Lot 33: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 bay; 1-story, 7-bay porch wraps around 3 sides, screened, turned posts with jigsaw work. Shingled front gable.

Lot 34: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, Doric columns. Gable end front street.

Lot 35: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, simple balustrade slender turned posts with jigsaw work. German siding.

Lot 36: Detached house. Cottage. Ca. 1930. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 2-bay enclosed porch.

Lot 37: Detached house. Modified Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, turned balustrade, Doric columns. Corner turret.

Lot 38: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, simple balustrade, spindle brackets.

Lot 39, 40: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch, Doric columns, full pediment above. Large central brick chimney.

Lot 41: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay enclosed porch. Gable end fronts street, pressed tin gable.

Lot 42: Detached house. Victorian Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, turned posts, turned balustrade. Sawwork in gables.

Lot 43: Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay screened porch, Doric columns, simple balustrade.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

ROUTE 644

Lot 44: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 projecting wall dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch, square posts. Pinnacles atop gables, German siding.

Lot 45: Detached house. Victorian Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay screened porch, bracketed cornice, spindle frieze, turned posts.

Lot 47 (Elijah W. Reed Grave): 1888. Marble obelisk surrounded by wrought-iron fence and shaded by magnolias and cedars.

Lot 48: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch, bracketed cornice, spindle frieze, turned posts, turned balustrade. Paired central brick flues.

Lot 49: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch.

Lot 50: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, turned balustrade, turned posts. Sawwork in front gable, bracketed cornice, spindle frieze at bay window overhang.

Lot 51-51A: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch, Tuscan columns.

Lot 52: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, bracketed eaves, turned posts.

Lot 53: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, bracketed eaves.

Lots 54, 55: Vacant lots.

*Lot 56: Detached house. Contemporary. Ca. 1970s. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays. Noncontributing.

Lot 57: Vacant.

Lot 58: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof/gambrel addition (wood shingle addition/standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch, contemporary addition. Gambrel-roofed modern addition to east.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

ROUTE 644

*Lot 59: Detached house. Contemporary. Ca. 1970s. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; hipped roof (composition); 8 bays. Noncontributing.

Lot 60: Vacant.

Lot 61: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1880s. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Paired paneled brick chimneys.

Lot 62 (Albert Morris House): Detached house. Queen Anne. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard/shingle); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch, spindle frieze, paired tripled Tuscan columns. Octagonal turret with bell-cast roof, 2nd-floor porch, cast-iron finials, bracketed eaves, bay window, decorative shingle patterns.

Lot 63: Vacant.

*Lot 65A: Government (Post Office). Contemporary. Ca. 1950s. Brick facade/concrete block; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 2 bays. Noncontributing.

Lot 64: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (with stone veneer); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays. Central brick chimney.

*Lot 65: Commercial (store). Vernacular. 1940s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 2 bays. Noncontributing.

Lot 66 (People's Bank of Reedville): Commercial (office). Colonial Revival. 1910. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (slate); 7 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, brick Tuscan columns, full pediment. Segmental-arched windows.

Lot 67: Vacant.

*Lot 68: Industrial. Contemporary. Ca. 1950s. Concrete block; 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays. Noncontributing.

Lot 69: Vacant.

Lots 70, 71, 72, 73: Industrial. Vernacular. Ca. 1930s. Wood frame (weatherboard)/concrete block; 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 bay. A complex of approximately four frame or concrete block buildings associated with Reedville Ice and Seafood, Inc.

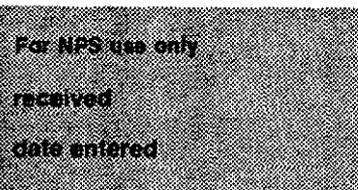
Lot 74 (Reed and Rice Store): Commercial (store). Vernacular. 1913. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; flat roof; 6 bays; 1-story, 6-bay porch, slender square posts, hipped roof. Bracketed cornice, large storefront windows.

Lot 75: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay screened porch, square Doric columns. Shingled gable, bracketed eaves.

(See Continuation Sheet #7)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

ROUTE 644

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Lot 76 ("The Gables"): Detached house. Queen Anne. 1909. Brick (stretcher bond); 3½ stories; gable roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 6-bay screened porch, hipped roof, brick arcade, turned balustrade. Projecting front entrance portico with oval window in gable, steeply-pitched cross gables with flanking smaller gables at building corners, 2nd-floor brick porch enclosed, segmental-arched windows.

Lot 77 (George Reed House): Detached house. Queen Anne. 1897-1899. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 gable dormer; 4 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch, Doric columns, pediment with scalloped shingles. Bell-cast-roofed corner turret, shingled gables with bracketed cornice and returns.

Lot 78: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, spindle frieze, turned balustrade, sawn brackets. Bay window, brick foundation, projecting front ell, angled entrance bay with gable above.

Lot 79: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch, Doric columns, broken pediment. Cast-stone foundation.

Lot 80: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, gable roof, Doric columns.

*Lot 81: Detached house. Dutch Colonial. 1950s. Brick (6-course American bond); 1½ stories; gambrel roof (composition); 3 gable dormers; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay screened porch, squared columns. Noncontributing.

Lot 82 (Reedville House): Hotel. Vernacular. 1885. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch, square chamfered posts, shed roof. Paired attic windows, front gable.

Lot 82 (Blyndon and Hinton Store): Commercial (store). Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Decorative bracketed cornice with returns, altered storefront 1940s.

Lot 83: Vacant.

*Lot 84 : Garage. Vernacular. 1940s. Wood frame (corrugated metal); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Noncontributing.

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

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ROUTE 644

Lot 84: Warehouse. Vernacular. Early 20th century. Wood frame (vertical siding); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Dilapidated shed now used for storage; originally a boat building shed.

Lot 85: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; clipped gable roof (composition); 2 bays; 1-story, 5-bay screened porch, square posts. Paired 2nd-floor multipaned windows.

*Lot 86: Industrial. Contemporary. 1970s. Wood frame (corrugated metal); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 bay. Noncontributing.

*Lot 87: Detached house. Vernacular. 1950s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 5 bays; 1-story, 2-bay screened porch, chamfered square posts. Noncontributing.

Lot 88: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay screened porch, chamfered posts. Bracketed cornice with returns.

*Lot 89: Detached house. Vernacular. 1970s. Log; 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays. Noncontributing.

Lot 90: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay screened porch, square posts with sawn brackets, shed roof. Central front gable.

Lot 91: Vacant.

Lot 92: (McGill's Bakery and Ice Cream Parlor): Commercial (office). Vernacular. 1912. Wood frame (aluminum); 1½ stories; central block gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays. Recessed entrance, tall brick chimney.

Lot 93: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, turned balustrade, turned posts. Cornice with returns, projecting front ell.

Lot 94: Detached house. Bungalow. 1920s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch, turned balustrade, brick piers with square paneled posts, screened.
Lot 95: Vacant.

Lot 96: Detached house. Queen Anne. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 9-bay porch, square posts. Projecting pedimented center bay with shingles, gable return, floral ornament; bays on each side with brackets, shingles.

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

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REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #9

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

ROUTE 644

*Lot 97: Detached house. Colonial Revival. Ca. 1950. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 2 gable dormers; 4 bays; 1-story, 2-bay screened porch, paired square posts. Noncontributing.

Lot 98: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch, no balustrade, square chamfered posts, hipped roof, exposed rafter ends. Central front gable with small attic window, 2 central brick flues.

Lot 99: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (aluminum); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, tapered square columns on brick piers, hipped roof. Exposed porch rafter ends, cornice with returns.

Lot 100: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay screened porch, hipped roof, turned posts with scroll brackets. Shingled gable with Palladian attic window and decorative sawnwork.

Lot 101: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 6-bay porch, sawnwork balustrade, scroll brackets, turned posts. Bay window at front, 2 small chimneys.

Lot 102A: Vacant lot.

Lot 102B: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch, brick piers, Doric columns, simple balusters, shed roof. 1 small center chimney.

ROUTE 360:

Lot 103: (Masonic Hall): Masonic Hall. Colonial Revival. Ca. 1910. Brick (Flemish bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays. 4 giant order pilasters laid in common bond, jack arches with keystones over windows, brick water table, pedimented gable end.

Lot 107: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, square posts, shed roof.

*Lot 114: Detached house. Colonial Revival. Ca. 1950. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 2 gable dormers; 5 bays. Brick foundation, brick steps. Noncontributing.

(See Continuation Sheet #10)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

ROUTE 360

Lot 115 : Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch, turned balusters, Doric columns, brick porch piers. 2 brick corbeled chimneys.

Lot 116 : Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch, Doric columns, turned balusters. Cast-stone foundation, bay window to north, triple window (upper floor), brackets at gable front.

Lot 108 : Detached house. Dutch Colonial. 1930. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gambrel roof (composition); 3 gable dormers; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, paired square Doric columns, no balustrade, brick floor.

Lot 109 : Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard 1st floor/shingle 2nd floor); 2½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 pedimented dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay wraparound porch with Doric columns, simple balusters, balustraded deck. Attic windows with geometric tracery, bay windows on both floors.

Lot 110 : Detached house. Dutch Colonial. 1930s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gambrel roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch, pedimented portico, Doric columns, modillion cornice. Screened porch to south.

*Lot 113 : Detached house. Colonial Revival. Ca. 1950. Brick (Flemish bond); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 gable dormers; 2 bays. Aluminum awnings, garage to south, porch to north. Noncontributing.

Lot 117: Vacant.

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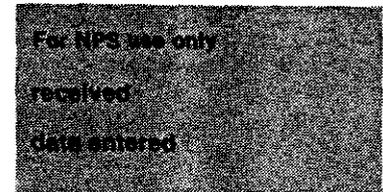
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REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #11

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

value was limited. Undesirable for human consumption, menhaden served only as fish bait and food for domestic animals until the accidental discovery in the 1850s that their oil could be extracted by boiling and sold commercially.³ Virtually overnight menhaden became America's primary source of oil, replacing the declining and unpredictable whaling industry. America was dependent on oil for tanning and curing leather; for producing rope, soap, paint, varnish, linoleum, and oilskin; and for tempering metals.

As the menhaden industry rapidly grew the efficiency of the oil extraction process improved as well. After 1880 the typical whaling schooners were replaced by steamboats. These steamers had the capacity to handle approximately 130,000 pounds of fish, while reducing the crew to seven. The menhaden schools were trapped in gigantic nets called "purse seines" (ranging 60' to 180' by 800' to 1500' in length). Sinks were attached to one edge and floats to the other, producing an immense wall to trap the fish. To extract the precious oil the menhaden were cooked in one hundred-gallon kettles over intense heat. The fish were then put in presses to extract the oil. The remaining fish residue, or scrap, was spread on the docks to dry, producing a fish fertilizer.

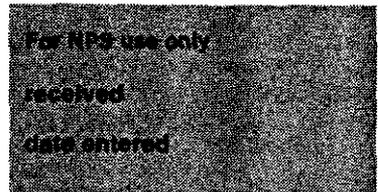
During the late 19th century, the menhaden industry dotted the shoreline of Maine, but menhaden were not exclusive to New England. Although in June and July menhaden schools pass the Virginia shores and are among the most abundant fish in Virginia's waters,⁴ prior to Reed there was no menhaden industry in Virginia. A few attempted, but as the earliest historian of the industry wrote in 1880, "Virginia laws do not encourage the inauguration of such enterprises by strangers, and companies thought it unadvisable to do business."⁵

Notwithstanding this prejudice, New Englander Elijah Reed was able to establish a successful menhaden industry in Virginia. Although some viewed him as a "carpet-bagger," Reed's efforts greatly stimulated the Northern Neck's economic recovery from the Civil War.⁶ This achievement, however, came only after numerous unsuccessful attempts elsewhere by Reed on the Chesapeake. The decision to establish a menhaden factory on Windmill Point came⁷ after Elijah Reed's first factory on Point Pleasant was destroyed by fire in 1873. Reed purchased 33 1/3 acres of the peninsula for one thousand dollars in 1873. After five profitable seasons, Reed replaced this original factory with the factory on the Point and purchased the "Starry Banner," the first steamer to fish the Chesapeake. His success incited natives and other New Englanders to build menhaden factories elsewhere on Cockrell Creek, so that by 1885 fifteen factories were in existence. Only one was incorporated, while the others were co-partnerships between Reedville residents and northern entrepreneurs. Such companies included: Edwards and Reed Company, McGill-McNeal Company, Morrison and Fisher Company, Haynie and Snow Company, and Hinton and Toulson Company. Only the Reed factory was located on the apex of Reed Point; others were located on various spots along Cockrell Creek.

(See Continuation Sheet #12)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Reedville entered the 20th century with great economic success and nationwide recognition. In 1900 twenty steamers were fishing Cockrell Creek and by 1912 the number had risen to sixty. The most productive year for the industry was 1912 when Reedville's eight plants were capitalized at two million dollars. The fish oil and fish guano industry in Virginia reported a dramatic increase in production from \$1,370,419.06 in 1911 to \$2,230,064.70 in 1912, making Reedville the center of the Commonwealth's menhaden industry. During the first quarter of the twentieth century Reedville enjoyed such a level of prosperity that the community reportedly had the highest per capita wealth in the United States.

Menhaden were not only responsible for this thriving local industry, but also for the prosperous community that grew up simultaneously with the fishing fleets on Windmill Point. A family tragedy attended the selection of the town center. After Elijah Reed purchased the Point he brought his wife to Virginia on March 2, 1874. Due to an illness she died two days later. Elijah Reed's son George states, "There being no cemetery in this section at the time, my father and I came to Windmill Point, which had been recently purchased by my father and selected a burial ground in the center of the tract of land and buried my mother."¹⁰ The Reed family memorial is located on Main Street, in the center of Reedville, surrounded by a wrought-iron fence.

During the summer of 1874 Elijah Reed built the structure which served as his home until his death in 1884. (The home, demolished in 1895, originally stood on the present site of the Morris House.) The following year, 1875, Reed sold lots and a few more houses, including the two oldest existing houses on the point, were built on the Point: the William Walker House and the Miriam Haynie House, both built in 1875. According to Walker's granddaughter, Marguerite Walker, "The foundations (of the William Walker House) were being laid when he left early one morning to go oystering. When he got back that evening the men were on the roof hammering on the last shingle. So I can truthfully say that my house was built in one day. April 17, 1875."¹¹ Valorus Toulson had a small house moved to land he had bought from Reed in 1874 by rolling it on logs; however, it was destroyed in 1895.¹²

The majority of the community's first structures were small, frame dwellings based on New England prototypes. Erected by the Reeds, some were built for the skilled workmen of the factory, while others were built for Reed's New England relatives. These buildings were constructed as needed along the parallel coastline of the peninsula, thus allowing each property private access to Cockrell Creek. The front of these early structures faced Main Street which extends from the apex of the Reed Point to the boundary of Reed's property (present-day Masonic Temple). In 1880 George Reed was appointed postmaster of the Point and in memory of his father, who died the same year, he named the new village Reedville.

The population steadily increased as the menhaden industry grew, reaching over one hundred in 1894, about two hundred in 1900, and about five hundred in 1903. Reedville flourished in the manner of a "gold rush town," but hosted "no saloons,

(See Continuation Sheet #13)

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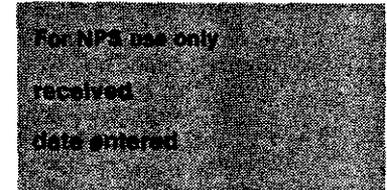
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REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

no dance hall girls, no makeshift buildings. It was founded and influenced for many years by ambitious but straight-laced New Englanders."¹³

By 1912 Reedville ranked among the communities with the highest per capita wealth in the nation and many of the modest New England structures of the founding period had given way to opulent Victorian mansions. Typical of the wealthy industrialists, captains, and merchants who built these new homes to glorify their accomplishments was George Reed, who built his home in 1897-1899. The opposite lot was purchased in 1898 by Albert Morris, a prosperous industrialist who built his lavish Queen Anne-style home in 1900. Captain Fisher bought the lot next to George Reed's home in 1902. For seven years Fisher had bricks brought to Reedville by sailing vessel, and stockpiled them on the site before starting the project in 1909. It is reported that Captain Fisher meticulously inspected the builders' progress and if a detail did not meet his exacting standards the entire wall had to be rebuilt.¹⁴ Curiously, the retired captain included the mast from his ship in the construction of the house, which runs from the third floor to the roof. All three of these structures are located near the apex of the Point. Other citizens built new mansions beyond the Bethany Methodist Church on an extension of Main Street known as "Millionaire's Row." The row's six stately homes were all constructed after the turn of the century.

Due to the financial success of the menhaden industry and the increased population, Reedville was able to support a number of public institutions and many business enterprises. In 1903 a journalist said of Reedville: "it is one of the most enterprising towns in the Northern Neck."¹⁵ Reedville's most prestigious structure is the Bethany United Methodist Church. Inhabitants of Windmill Point have supported a Methodist church since 1806. As the community grew the congregation needed a larger and a more substantial structure, and John C. Steelman, a New Jersey contractor, was hired to design and build a Gothic Revival-style church in Reedville.¹⁶ Pressed bricks were transported to Reedville by a three-mast schooner, and the bricks were then hauled to the site by ox carts. The cornerstone was laid in 1899, and dedicated June 30, 1901. A dedication article stated: "This beautiful structure is the handsomest and most costly edifice not only in Northumberland County, but in this whole section of eastern Virginia. The cost has been ten thousand dollars."¹⁷ The interior hosts dark stained oak walls with intricately carved tracery and brackets. The carvings were executed by a Mr. Crandall. The present stained-glass windows were added in 1950.

Prior to 1901 no banks existed on the Northern Neck and all financial business related to the fishing industry had to be conducted aboard steamboats until the L.E. Mumford Bank Office was erected in Reedville in 1901. This two-story brick structure housed many other businesses and a private school, however, the building burned and another bank, the four-columned People's Bank of Reedville, was built on the site in 1910.

Reedville by 1900 was also able to support several hotels and boarding houses. Frequent guests included traveling salesmen, colloquially called "drummers," who would travel the Northern Neck and stop over in Reedville before returning home to

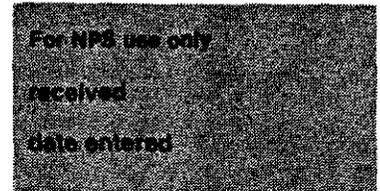
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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Fredericksburg or Baltimore. One such hotel was the Reedville House, built by Captain John Hinton as a private home ca. 1885, but which served as a hotel between 1903 and 1929. Other hotels included the Muir House, built in 1906 and operated as a hotel until 1940; and the Garrison House, which served as a boarding house from 1900.

The strength of Reedville's economy allowed for a variety of shops to operate. The village's first store, built and owned by the Reeds and Luther Rice, stood on the apex of the Point near the Reed Factory until replaced by a new store at the same location in 1913. The proprietors delivered groceries, building supplies, ropes, blocks, tar, and other gear to trappers. In addition to selling coal and ice, the store featured a ladies department, a fountain, and a pharmacy. The store manager could arrange to have certain goods imported for customers, such as buggies which were shipped by steamboat and assembled on the wharf.¹⁸ The Reed and Rice Store, now abandoned, is the only structure built on the apex of the Point which survived the fire of 1925. Two other early commercial buildings include the Blundon and Hinton Grocery Store, still in use; and the Haynie Insurance Company building, formerly McGill's Bakery and Ice Cream Parlor (1912).¹⁹

Reed's factory on the Point was destroyed by fire in December 1925. Most of the other factories soon followed the same fate or they failed due to bankruptcy, mergers, or the deaths of the owners. As a result, no menhaden factories exist in the village of Reedville today, the menhaden factories having moved to other villages on Cockrell Creek. For example, Zapata Haynie Corporation and Standard Products Company, which rank (respectively) as the largest and third largest menhaden factories in the nation, are located near Reedville. These ports "rank annually among the nation's leading fishing ports with landings that run close to a billion fish a year."²⁰

Reedville in its heyday also supported minor industries other than the menhaden factories. In 1903 the McGill-McNeal factory packed caviar and sold it to a Baltimore market. This industry ceased in 1912 due to the scarcity of sturgeon in Cockrell Creek. There existed a tomato cannery on the wharf behind Blundon and Hinton's Store in 1902-1903. In 1906 Sam Butler established a marine railway used for boat repairs, which is still being operated by third-generation Butlers.

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¹John Frye, The Men Are Singing (Norfolk: Downing, 1978), p. 54.

²Miriam Haynie, Reedville 1874-1974 (Reedville: Men's Club of Bethany United Methodist Church, 1974), p. 44.

³Frye, p.24.

⁴G. Brown Goode, A History of the Menhaden (New York: Orange Tudd Company, 1880), p. 90.
(See Continuation Sheet #15)

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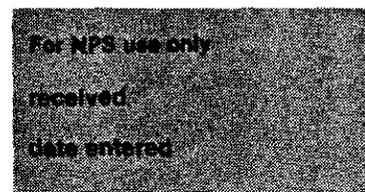
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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background (Footnotes)

⁵ Ibid., p. 53.

⁶ Frye, p. 53.

⁷ Northumberland County, Deed Book E, p. 467.

⁸ Bureau of Labour Statistics, Virginia, Annual Report, 1912.

⁹ Frye, p. 36.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 53.

¹¹ Haynie, p. 11.

¹² Ibid., p. 55.

¹³ Interview with Carrol Vanlandingham.

¹⁴ Haynie, p. 1.

¹⁵ Interview with Carrol Vanlandingham.

¹⁶ Haynie, p. 14.

¹⁷ Bethany United Methodist Church, Church Directory, p. 2.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 2.

¹⁹ Haynie, p. 50.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 41.

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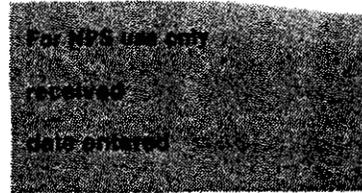
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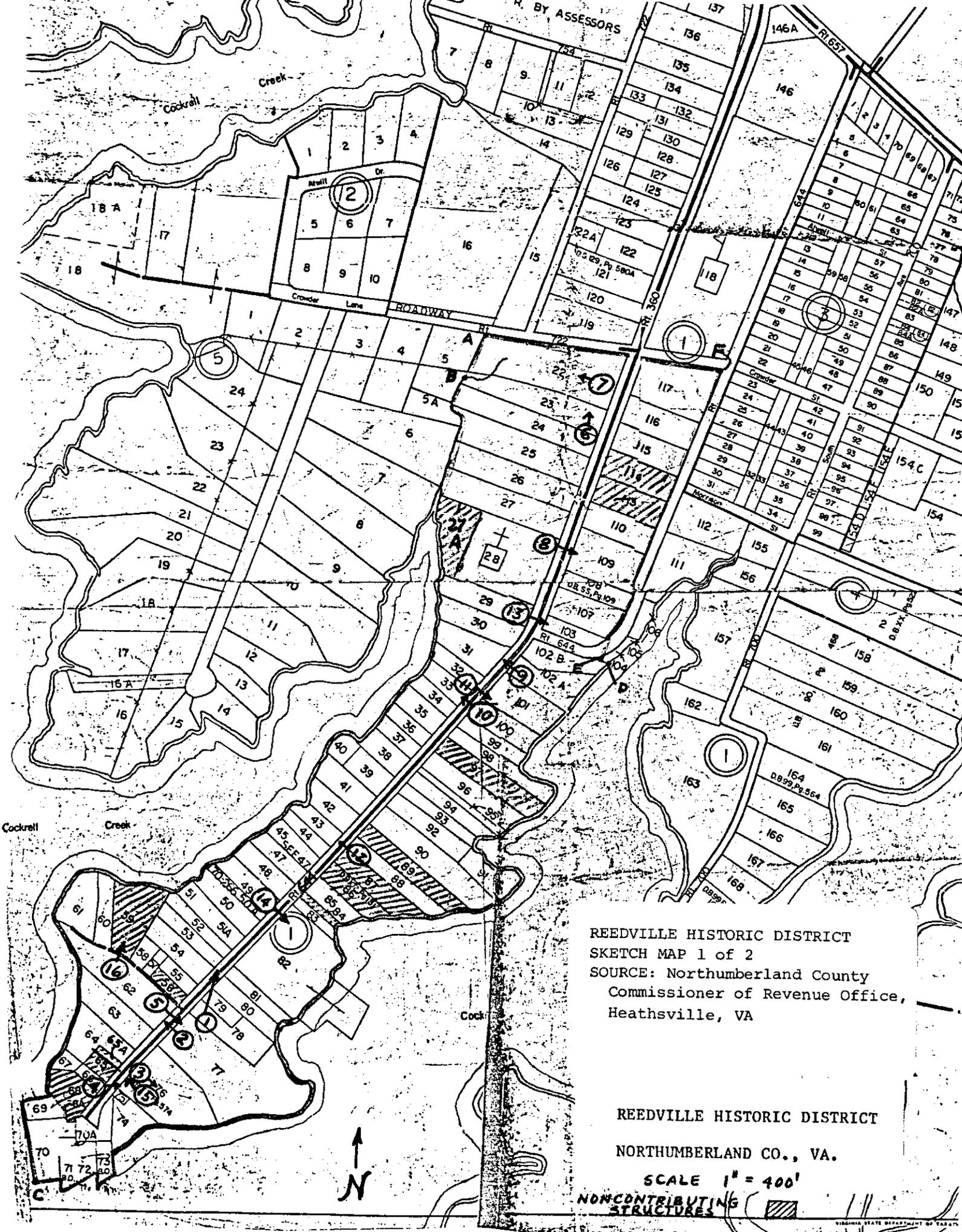


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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

The meandering W shoreline of the Reedville peninsula S to a point (C) at the tip of the peninsula; thence following the meandering E shoreline of the peninsula to a point (D) located on the N property line of lot 102B; thence approximately 100' W to a point (E) on the S side of VA Route 644; thence crossing the road and following the rear property lines of lots 107 through 117 for approximately 100' N to a point (F) located at the SW corner of the intersection of VA Routes 644 and 722; thence approximately 800' W along the S side of VA Route 722 to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The southern, western, and most of the eastern boundaries of the district are defined by the natural shoreline of the peninsula on which Reedville is located. The rear property lines of lots 107 through 117 serve as part of the eastern boundary of the district, while the S side of VA Route 722 serves as the northern boundary. Areas north and east of these boundaries are mostly 20th-century buildings that do not contribute to the character of the district.

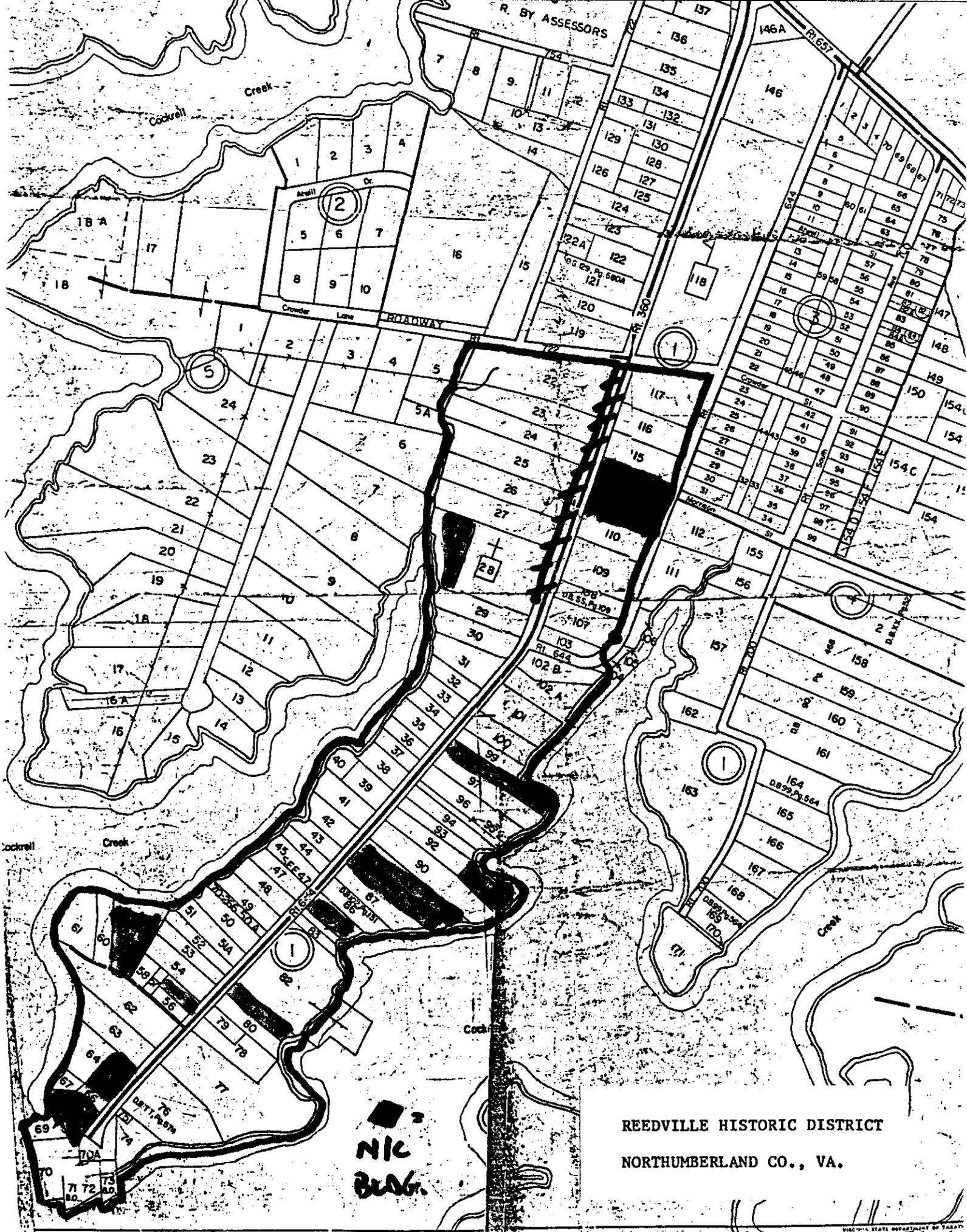


REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 SKETCH MAP 1 of 2
 SOURCE: Northumberland County
 Commissioner of Revenue Office,
 Heathsville, VA

REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NORTHUMBERLAND CO., VA.

SCALE 1" = 400'

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REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
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 NIC
 Bldg.

REEDVILLE QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 HEATHSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

S
ARMY
RS

286

17'30"

2640 000 FEET

SUNNYBANK (FERRY) 1.3 MI.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Reedville, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1944

REEDVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, Reedville, VA
MAP 2 of 2

UTM References:

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| C-18/387350/4188680 | D-18/387310/4188330 |
| E-18/387640/4188470 | F-18/387840/4188730 |
| G-18/387900/4189000 | H-18/387970/4189300 |

