

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Eyreville

Other names/site number: VDHR #065-5126/44NH0507

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3259 Eyreville Drive

City or town: Cheriton State: VA County: Northampton

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C X D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: Date <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official: Date _____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

LANDSCAPE: Garden

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Greek Revival

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE: Slate; METAL; WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Eyreville is located on the west side of U.S. Route 13/Charles M. Lankford, Jr., Memorial Highway north of the towns of Cape Charles and Cheriton and south of Eastville in Northampton County, Virginia. The bayside farm occupies a flat neck (Eyreville Neck) that extends west into Cherrystone Inlet, which opens onto Chesapeake Bay. The neck is bounded on the north by Old Castle Creek and on the south by Eyreville Creek. The property historically encompassed 1,000 acres, which over time was divided into several parcels; the nominated property consists of an approximate 6.5-acre portion of the 17-acre waterfront parcel that includes the historic dwelling, several outbuildings, an ornamental garden, and a recorded multi-component archaeological site. The property, accessed from the main highway by a mile-long driveway, is heavily wooded with numerous large, mature hardwood and evergreen trees and shrubs surrounding the historic dwelling. Brick walkways extend around the house and the paved driveway circles around the front (south) of the house. The surrounding farmland includes stands of woodland and open, cultivated fields.

Eyreville's intact archaeological features and standing architectural resources make it one of the most significant properties on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The archaeological features discovered to date, including the remains of two possible post-in-ground structures (ca. 1620-1630) and a brick foundation (ca. 1657), have yielded many artifacts that relate to seventeenth-century trade with local Native Americans, as well as English and Dutch interests. Pipes, beads, ceramics, coins, bricks, hardware, and other artifacts attest to the social and economic status and commercial activities of the site's inhabitants. All features excavated were previously undisturbed and retain a very high level of integrity. Archaeologists at the Department of Historic Resources believe the Eyreville site is the oldest colonial site to be excavated on the Delaware/Maryland/Virginia (Delmarva) peninsula to date.

The primary standing architectural resource at Eyreville is the evolved two-and-a-half-story, brick dwelling that consists of three distinct sections built in 1800, 1806, and 1839, and reflects Federal-period architectural influences and later Greek Revival- and Colonial Revival-style additions and alterations. In

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the 1940s, the construction of a brick colonnade connecting to a natatorium was added to the northwest end of the house and additional vernacular domestic outbuildings and a brick oyster house also were constructed on the property. The brick mansion house at Eyreville attests to the nineteenth-century social status of the owners (the Eyre family) and can be compared to other Eastern Shore dwellings of the period. The dwelling and its associated outbuildings produce a compelling history of two centuries of prosperous agricultural production and occupation by notable Eastern Shore families. The twentieth-century alterations reflect popular architectural trends of the period and confirm the property as a center of significant social activity. The architectural resources retain good overall integrity. The nominated property consists of ten contributing resources: seven buildings, two sites, and one structure.

Landscape and Setting

Eyreville is located in Northampton County on Virginia's Eastern Shore and stands eight miles north of the town of Cape Charles and about two miles south of Eastville, the county seat. The property occupies Eyreville Neck, which is bounded on the north by Old Castle Creek, on the south by Eyreville Creek, and on the west by Cherrystone Inlet and Chesapeake Bay beyond. Savage Neck, which extends south from Eastville, lies directly west of Eyreville across the inlet. Eyreville Neck and the surrounding acreage remain rural in character with much of the land in cultivation or in woodland. The terrain is nearly flat, but slopes gently towards the water. Several historic properties dating from the eighteenth century are located in the vicinity of Eyreville including NRHP-eligible Old Castle (VDHR #065-0020, 1721) to the north, Pleasant Prospect (VDHR #065-0040, ca. 1750) to the west on Savage Neck, and, most notably, the National Historic Landmark (NHL) property of Eyre Hall (VDHR #065-0008, ca. 1759) to the south across Eyreville Creek. The historic ownerships of Eyre Hall and Eyreville also are intertwined and discussed in Section 8.

Northampton County occupies the southern half of Virginia's Eastern Shore, which is itself the southernmost portion of the Delmarva peninsula. Geographically isolated and predominantly rural to the present time, the Eastern Shore is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by the Maryland state line, and on the west and south by Chesapeake Bay. Since 1964, the southern tip of the Shore has been connected to the mainland of Virginia by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, which lies approximately 15 miles south of Eyreville.

Historically, Eyreville consisted of 1,000 acres, which was divided into three large-acreage parcels in the mid-seventeenth century. At present, the farm is divided into several parcels with the nominated property occupying the southern portion of a 17-acre parcel overlooking Cherrystone Inlet to the west. This parcel includes the main dwelling, associated outbuildings, and known archaeological sites. The nominated property is accessed from U.S. Route 13/Charles M. Lankford, Jr., Memorial Highway by a mile-long paved driveway that runs slightly to the southwest through the farmland to the front (south) of the house. The fenced curtilage is heavily planted with a mix of hardwood, evergreen, and ornamental trees and shrubs.

The two-and-a-half-story brick dwelling stands at the center of the collection of architectural resources on the nomination property. The house faces south across the wooded lawn toward Eyreville Creek and the Eyre Hall property beyond. A secondary dwelling and the waterside oyster house, accessed by a lane off the driveway, stand 75 to 100 yards east of the house. One-story, frame sheds and a garage line the driveway north of the house and the ornamental garden and gazebo stand northeast of the house within the fenced yard. Additional outbuildings and agricultural buildings stand outside the property boundary; those resources, many of which are late-twentieth century structures, are located on other tax parcels and are not included with the nominated property. The recorded archaeological deposits were discovered in the yard west of the house and stand about midway between the house and the water's edge (Figure 1).

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Figure 1. Aerial view of Eyreville Property Showing Main Dwelling and Associated Outbuildings within Wooded Yard, Looking Southeast. Eyre Hall lies on the south (right) side of Eyreville Creek and the long driveway (Eyreville Drive) near the center ground extends east towards U.S. Route 13. (DHR, 2019)

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Narrative Description

Extant Dwelling

This narrative description incorporates information provided by Carl R. Lounsbury, PhD, whose expert opinion informs much of the analysis.¹

The main dwelling at Eyreville is an evolved Federal period house with an H-shaped floorplan. The earliest part of the building dates to 1800 and is at the north end of the dwelling; an 1806 addition presently serves as a connector to the 1839 section that faces south (see Additional Documentation 1). A series of brick, one-story additions, constructed about 1940, extends about 200 to 300 feet to the northwest rear of the house.

Period I (1800)

The oldest part of the main dwelling at Eyreville is the two-and-a-half-story section on the north end of the house. The exterior walls of this section are of brick laid in a Flemish bond with scribed joints. Bricks incised with dates and initials are present in the east and west walls. The west end brick is inscribed with “1800 W x E” (Figure 2) and the east side brick is marked “1800 DP.” “W E” likely refers to then-owner William L. Eyre; “DP” may be the initials of the builder or head bricklayer of the house. Other details on the house include slightly projecting segmental arches above the cellar-level openings, a double-stepped watertable, and brick rowlock lintels above the northside window openings. The south elevation is obscured by later additions. The building is covered by a side-facing gable roof that is clad with straight and shaped slate shingles and holds interior end chimneys on the east and west ends. The roof has deep end eaves with gable-end returns, a wooden cornice, and boxed eave on the north. Windows are nine-over-nine wooden sash on the east and north sides and twelve-over-twelve sash on the west side. Wooden louvered shutters cover the rectangular openings at the attic levels on the east and west ends of the house. Wooden shutters historically were present on the other window openings, as well.



Figure 2. Detail, West Exterior Wall (Period I House) Showing Inscribed Bricks (DHR, 2018)

¹ Dr. Carl R. Lounsbury graciously provided copies of his field notes and sketches, and other information through electronic mail messages. Chapter III in *The Material World of Eyre Hall: Four Centuries of Chesapeake History* (Baltimore, MD: Maryland Center for History and Culture, 2021), edited by Dr. Lounsbury, also includes information on the historical ownership and construction of Eyreville.

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Because later additions were constructed to the north and south sides of this section of the house, parts of the original appearance are difficult to ascertain. The size of the house, 40-feet wide by 23-feet 2-inches deep, may suggest that it was originally a center passage, single pile house or a variant of that form, or it may have been a two-room (hall-parlor) plan. The interior walls and some window and door openings were altered in the twentieth century, further obscuring the original plan, and interior walls are furred out from the original exterior brick walls.

At present, the first floor is divided into two rooms with a short passage on the south side. The room on the west is a kitchen that retains the original fireplace on the west side wall. The mantel features reeded pilasters set on plain plinths, a deeply grooved molding, and a wide frieze board with an enframed panel at the center. Paneled blocks support the stepped mantel shelf, which also features deeply grooved edges. Other woodwork in this space, all of which is painted, is of a later era and includes molded wooden window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks and a molded chair rail placed high on the wall. Built-in cabinetry extends along the east and south walls. The space is finished with wooden flooring and plaster walls and ceilings that are covered with wallpaper.

A six-panel, wooden door at the southeast corner of the kitchen leads into the short passage giving access to the room on the east end of this section of the house. The passage terminates with a curving wall on the east end, which protrudes into the parlor space. The east side space, possibly a parlor, is finished with a wooden floor, a plaster ceiling, and plaster walls with crown molding and a wooden baseboard with a molded top. Windows on the north and east walls are detailed with surrounds like those in the kitchen with molded trim and bull's eye corner blocks. The fireplace mantel, more ornate than the west room's mantel, consists of reeded pilasters, reeded casing around the firebox surround, a slightly projecting framed panel at the center of the frieze board, and gouged and punched trim boards along the top of the frieze and below the shelf. The stepped shelf features a cyma recta molding. The brick firebox and its brick surround are painted (Figure 3).

A centrally located opening on the south wall of the passage, which may have been the original entrance, presently holds a set of double-leaf doors. The north side of the opening (the Period I side of the opening) is simply, but elegantly, detailed with a molded casing, bull's eye corner blocks, and paneled reveals. The doors presently open into the north end of the center hall leading into the 1839 addition. An opening at the east end of the passage accesses the stairhall (1806) described below.

The second floor of the Period I house holds two bedrooms and a bathroom and, like the plan of the first floor, appears to have been modified. A narrow transverse hallway extends along the south side of the second floor with room openings on the north side. The second-floor east side bedroom has wooden floors and plaster walls and ceilings. The walls are detailed with crown molding and a tall baseboard, which is missing along the north and part of the east wall, revealing the brick structure and the wooden lath of the wall. The baseboards may have been removed to install electric heating. The painted wooden mantel on the east wall is a simplified example of the mantel in the first-floor kitchen. It features reeded pilasters atop wooden plinths that support an entablature above and a stepped mantel shelf. The enframed masonry firebox also is painted. A door on the west wall of the room accesses a bathroom.

The second-floor west side bedroom has a carpeted floor and plaster ceiling and walls. A tall baseboard and crown molding are present. The fireplace mantel is similar to the one in the east room except that the pilasters are fully fluted rather than reeded. Alterations in this space include construction of closets on the east wall and a bathroom to the south.

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Figure 3. Mantel in East Room of Period I House, Looking Northeast. (DHR, 2018)

Period II (1806)

The first-floor passage on the south side of the Period I house provides access to the small, nearly square stairhall constructed in 1806 at the southeast side of the original house. The addition is puzzling and raises the question of the placement of the original staircase in the Period I house, which, due to interior alterations, has not been determined. The exterior brick walls are laid in a three-course American bond with V-joints and reflect an obvious change in the masonry from the original house. A brick incised with “1806” is present on the exterior east wall of the stairhall addition. This section of the house is covered by a slate-covered gable roof that connects the Period I and Period III sections.

The stairhall interior is finished with wooden floors, plaster walls and ceilings, a molded baseboard and chair rail, and a curving wooden stair (Figure 4). The newel consists of a square plinth and a turned baluster above. The shaped handrail spirals from the top of the newel and turns in a slight gooseneck along the quarter turn and rise to the second-floor landing. There are three square balusters per stair tread.

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Figure 4. Stairhall Looking North; Opening leads to Period I house. (DHR, 2018)

On the first-floor level, a door on the east side of the stairhall accesses the one-story, screened-in porch that extends along the east side of the stairhall and Period I house. The porch, constructed early in the twentieth century, is described in more detail below.

The stair rises along the east wall, then turns to the west and rises to a landing. An opening on the north side of the landing gives access to the second floor of the Period I house. The stair then turns south and continues to the second-floor level where an arched opening to the west accesses the Period III (1839) addition.

Period III (1839)

The third section of the house to be constructed consists of a two-and-a-half story, brick section that is covered by a side-facing gable roof clad with straight and shaped slate shingles. Two interior brick chimneys project from the east and west ends of the roof ridgeline. The brick of the exterior walls is laid in a Flemish bond on the front (south) and a three-course American bond on the side elevations; each side has V-shaped joints. The south and west elevations also appear to have been given a red wash coating, which

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was employed to give a protective coating to bricks (waterproofing) and also to give a unified appearance to bricks that might vary widely in coloring.

The five-bay-wide front (south) elevation holds a centrally located entrance bay that features a double-leaf door with a wide semicircular fanlight and diamond-paned sidelights (Figure 5). Engaged Ionic columns frame the recessed sidelight bays. Tall, fluted Doric pilasters that support a molded arch around the fanlight enframe the entire door opening. The fanlight surround is further detailed by a row of applied seven-pointed star-shaped decorations alternating with reeded squares. Similar star decorations are used on the front portico of Kendall Grove in Eastville and built in 1813 for Margaret Eyre and her husband George Parker (listed in the NRHP in 1982, VDHR #065-0060). Eyreville's paneled entrance doors are protected by a set of wooden louvered doors, which allow the solid doors to be opened for ventilation through the hall in the warm months. Windows on this section of the house are large nine-over-nine wooden sash and are set within openings detailed with brick rowlock lintels, which Dr. Lounsbury notes replaced the original stone lintels typically seen on similar houses of the period.² The second-floor windows are slightly smaller than those on the first floor. Surviving hardware indicates that shutters were formerly present on these openings.



Figure 5. Detail of Entrance into Period III House Showing Elaborate Surround, Painted Brick, and Ghosting from Previous Porch Structure. (DHR, 2017)

² Lounsbury, 112.

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The east and west ends also hold small, two- and three-pane basement level awning windows set in segmentally arched openings and attic level windows that are six-over-six wooden sash. The latter are set in openings with wooden lintels with splayed ends and incised to appear like stone with a keystone at the center. The ends of the lintels are awkwardly cut off by the wooden frieze board that rises along the gable end.

The footprint of the Period III house is 60-feet 4-inches wide by 27-feet 3-inches deep. A rear ell (ca. 1940) at the center of the rear (north) side of the house connects to the Period I house and the stairhall. The house has a center passage, one-pile plan. The center hall is approximately 15-feet wide with a 12-foot ceiling height. An elliptical arch in the center hall visually separates the hall from the ell addition; a similar element is used at Eyre Hall to divide the entry hall and stair hall, however, at Eyreville, there are no stairs in the center passage. The arch consists of engaged fluted Ionic pilasters, a molded arch with a bull's eye keystone, and paneled reveals on the sides and the underside of the arch. The doors at the north end of the hall connect to the Period I house (noted above). The opening features a surround that echoes the details of the front (south) entrance and holds a set of wooden double-leaf doors detailed with three horizontally oriented rectangular panels at the top and a vertically oriented rectangular panel at the bottom (similar to others in the Period III house). Wooden side panels flank the doors and the entire opening is enframed by Ionic pilasters that support a wide, molded arch with a bull's eye block at the top. The arch frames the semi-circular fanlight over the door opening and side panels.

Doors on the east and west sides of the hall are detailed with molded casings, bull's eye corner blocks, and deep paneled reveals. Other details include a tall, molded baseboard, a wide dado rail, and a wall molding that extends to a soffit band. During the Webster ownership (1940ff), an elevator was installed in the southeast corner of the hall (Figure 6). On the south side of the hallway arch, the side doors open into the parlor (east) and library (west); on the north side of the arch, the doors lead to the stairhall on the east and a bathroom on the west (added in the 1940s).



Figure 6. Looking South Through Entrance Hall of Period III House. Note archway dividing hall and elevator cab in upper left (southeast) corner of hallway. (DHR, 2018)

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The first-floor east side parlor has a wooden floor, plaster and papered walls, and a plaster ceiling. Notable woodwork includes the tall baseboard, dado rail, and wall molding that extends along the ceiling soffit (Figure 7). The door and window casings feature reeding and corner blocks that feature concentric squares (rather than circles of the bull's eye). The door openings to the hall (west) and the stairhall (north) are standard height (about 8-feet) but the window openings reach nearly the height of the ceiling and have slightly splayed and paneled reveals. Paneled wooden aprons sit beneath the large nine-over-nine windows. The black marble mantelpiece on the east wall has Ionic columns set atop block plinths; the columns support a plain entablature and a shelf with curved ends. The firebox is enclosed and fitted with the pipe of a wood stove.



Figure 7. First Floor, East Room, Wall and Ceiling Molding (DHR, 2018)

The finishes and details in the west side library are similar to the parlor; however, the trimwork in the library consists of reeded casework with traditional circular bull's eye corner blocks (Figure 8). In addition, the wainscot below the dado is paneled and the walls above are papered. The marble mantelpiece consists of Ionic columns on plinths and a curved shelf, but the frieze is detailed with bull's eye motifs on the end blocks and a molded header. A built-in bookcase stands on the north wall of the room.

The second-floor level, accessed from the first floor by the rear stairhall, consists of a center hall with bedrooms to the east and west. Arched openings on the south end of the hall connect to the Period I house and a second stair, on the west wall, leads to the attic level (Figure 9). Finishes and woodwork details are similar to those on the first floor, although some doors are six rather than eight panel and some openings lack bull's eye corner blocks. The elevator enclosure stands at the southeast corner of the hall. An arched opening on the north end of the hall opens to the enclosed sleeping porch.

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Figure 8. First Floor, West Room (library), Detail of Door Casing (DHR, 2018)



Figure 9. Looking South Through Center Hall on Second Floor. (DHR, 2018)

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The second-floor west bedroom connects to a bathroom on the north side, which was added in the 1940s. This room has a carpeted floor and plaster walls and ceiling. The walls are detailed with a baseboard with a molded top, a molded chair rail, and crown molding. Window openings on the west and north feature reeded surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks, reeded reveals, a deep sill, and stout reeded pilasters below that extend from the top of the baseboard and visually support the sill. The wooden mantelpiece on the west wall consists of reeded pilasters on plinths that support a plain frieze; the stepped shelf has molded edges and the firebox opening is faced with white marble.

The east side bedroom also is detailed with a tall baseboard, dado rail, and wall molding, but the casework lacks bull's eye corner blocks. The fireplace on the east wall has a simple marble mantel with plain surround and a curved shelf. The room connects to a bathroom on the north side.

The third floor (attic level) is accessed by a staircase located at the northwest corner of the second floor hall. The upper level consists of a center hall flanked by rooms on the east and west. The rooms, presently used for storage, have carpeted floors, plaster walls, and low-sloped plaster ceilings on the north and south. Six-over-six wooden sash windows flank the rise of the chimney on the exterior walls in each room.

Basement

The full-height basement level beneath the Period III house is divided, like the upper floors, into a center space flanked by a "room" to the east and west. The spaces are divided by painted brick walls that reach to the wide, wooden floor joists and have large openings at the center connecting the spaces. The east and west walls hold projecting piers that support the fireplaces on the upper level. The pier on the west side is detailed with a relieving arch. The basement is accessed from the interior by a door and winding brick stair on the first floor at the rear of the center hall. An exterior bulkhead opening is located on the west end of the north wall of the basement. Alterations to this space include the concrete floor and installation of steel beam supports. The space has been used to discreetly insert mechanical equipment and plumbing. A crawl space beneath the hyphen connects to the Period I cellar space, which was not accessed.

Period IV (1904-1942)

In the early twentieth century, William Dixon Nottingham (1870-1938) owned Eyreville and made Colonial Revival-style changes to the house and added the porches. Historical photographs show that the early porch featured a screened-in first floor and an open balcony on the second floor that was covered by a projecting gable roof. Later iterations of the porch extended the width of the second-floor porch, which is now enclosed, and changed the roof to a shed profile.

On the interior, Nottingham replaced the original woodwork in the Period I (1800) house and reconfiguring the floorplan. Eastern Shore historian Ralph T. Whitelaw notes that "the present front porches were added by Mr. Nottingham, with some further changes by the present owners [the Websters]."³ The two-story, three-bay-wide front porch that extends from the façade features fluted Doric wood columns on each level and is covered by a shed roof of standing-seam metal. The porch's first-floor level is accessed by a set of brick steps in the center bay. The bays of the upper level sleeping porch are enclosed with triple sets of nine-over-nine windows, wooden panels, and a wooden balustrade. Formerly, a balustrade also ran along the edge of the porch roof.

³ Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties, Vol. One* (Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1968), 203.

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A one-story, screened-in porch extends along the east side of the stairhall and Period I house and wraps around the north side of the house. The porch is covered by a metal-clad hipped roof with a centrally located cross-gable over the east side entrance. The porch is raised on a brick foundation and features wooden Ionic column supports and a wooden balustrade. The screens are set within wooden frames. The east side entrance and another entrance on the north side of the porch are accessed by wide, brick steps.

In 1942, Guy L. Webster purchased the house, updated the porches, and made additions to the house and property. It was during the Webster ownership that the elevator was installed in the center hall. No architect has been identified for the work completed at Eyreville for Webster, but the buildings reflect influence of the Colonial Revival style and may have been inspired by the 1930s-era restoration at Williamsburg. The frame buildings reflect vernacular forms and details typically seen in the region. The two-story brick infill section on the west side of the ell (connecting the Period I and Period III houses) was built about 1940. The exterior brick walls of the two-bay wing are laid in a Flemish bond, but are of a lighter color than the other parts of the house. Windows on this section are eight-over-eight wooden sash. As noted above, this area generally holds bathrooms and storage spaces on the interior.⁴

Webster's additions to the house extend to the north and northwest. A one-story, shed-roofed, brick kitchen wing was built onto the north side of the Period I house. A wide band of metal coping extends along the east and west edges of the roof. Windows on this part of the house are six-over-six wooden sash set within punched openings with brick rowlock sills. An entrance stoop is present on the east side of the wing. In addition to a kitchen, this wing also holds a library.

An interior door from the kitchen wing accesses the enclosed passageway leading to the ballroom. The exterior walls are of brick construction laid in a Flemish bond with brick pilasters between the building bays and a copper-clad domes roof covers the passage, the length of which extends west then turns north (see Additional Documentation 2 and Figure 10). Wooden casement windows on the south and west sides light the passage. The interior features a terra cotta-tiled floor and a flat ceiling clad with wooden boards. A similar corridor extends from the back of Kendall Grove connecting the house to the kitchen and at Old Castle, where the length of the corridor turns in an elbow shape like that at Eyreville. Eastern Shore historian H. Chandlee Forman refers to this element as an "elongated curtain" and states that it is "a really distinctive feature of the Northampton County area" that relates to the medieval custom of building in "ranges" or walled passages.⁵

The one-and-a-half-story ballroom/residential wing consists of a large, open space with a concrete floor, and plaster walls and ceiling. On the exterior, this wing is clad with weatherboards and is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof clad with standing-seam metal and concrete shingles. A broad, exterior brick chimney rises from the north end of the wing. Windows are six-over-six wooden sash. A small shed-roofed wing projects to the east and holds an entrance door.

⁴ Dr. Lounsbury notes that the toilets installed in Eyreville are stamped "December 1941," just prior to the bombing at Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II. These toilets would be some of the last fixtures manufactured before civilian production was halted and American companies turned their efforts to supplying the military with needed materials. Carl Lounsbury, Personal Communication, April 17, 2023.

⁵ H. Chandlee Forman, *The Virginia Eastern Shore and Its British Origins: History, Gardens, & Antiquities* (Easton, MD: Eastern Shore Publishers' Associates, 1975), 63; "Kendall Grove," VDHR #065-0060, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, October 1980. Copy on file, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; Rick Hubbard, "Old Castle," VDHR #065-0020, Preliminary Information Form. Copy on file, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

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A tall, one-story brick furnace room projects from the north end of the ballroom wing. The furnace room stands on a concrete foundation and is covered by a front-facing gable roof that is clad with slate shingles and features a gabled parapet wall on the north end. An overhead door is present on the north end and metal industrial type windows are on the east and west elevations.



Figure 10. Looking Southwest at Row of Attached Dependencies of "Curtain" including (left to right) Ballroom, Furnace Room, Corridor, Plant Room, and Pool House.

On the west end of the ballroom, a one-story, four-bay, brick hyphen connects to a small plant room and the pool house, which suffered a serious fire in April 2020. At the time of this nomination, the damage was not yet repaired; however, historical photographs and architectural survey conducted before the fire allow a detailed description of historical appearance of the pool house.

The pool house was of brick construction and was covered by a hipped roof covered with slate shingles and a modillioned cornice. A tall brick chimney rose from the north end of the roof ridge and a louvered cupola projected from the south end. The wing, which has a concrete foundation, was clad with brick laid in a Flemish bond, and the window and door openings were detailed with brick rowlock sills and jack arches. The entrance door on the north end of the building was flanked by two round windows. A distinctive design element of the pool house was the curved southern end of the wing that held large multi-pane metal windows with awning panes at the bottom; historical photographs show that similar multi-paned windows were installed in the curved ceiling on this end of the pool room, which would have provided abundant sunlight from the southern exposure. The tiled plunge pool (oriented east-to-west) was surrounded by a terra cotta tiled floor. The walls and much of the ceiling were covered with beaded wooden boards; however, part of the ceiling over the pool was covered with corrugated metal sheets. The broad brick fireplace wall on the

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north end of the space held the fireplace opening that was detailed with a simple wooden shelf with supporting brackets. A bathroom and a small kitchen were accessed through doors on the north end wall.

INVENTORY

The following inventory includes all resources within the nominated boundaries of with Eyreville. The contributing resources date to the property's period of significance and retain integrity sufficient to convey their historic character and appearance. There are no non-contributing resources within the proposed property boundaries. The resources listed below are keyed by number and name to the attached Sketch Map.

1. **Single dwelling**, extant main house, Eyreville; 1800, 1806, 1839, 1940; Federal, Greek Revival, and Colonial Revival; Contributing Building
2. **Domestic outbuilding**, Oyster House, ca. 1942; Colonial Revival; Contributing Building
3. **Secondary dwelling**, ca. 1942; Vernacular; Contributing Building
4. **Doll House**, ca. 1942, Vernacular; Contributing Building
5. **Garden Shed**, ca. 1942; No Style; Contributing Building
6. **Garage**, ca. 1942; No Style; Contributing Building
7. **Shed**, ca. 1942; No Style; Contributing Building
8. **Garden**, ca. 1942; No Style; Contributing Site
9. **Gazebo**, ca. 1942; Vernacular; Contributing Structure
10. **Archaeological Site**, ca. 1620-1680; Historic; Contributing Site

Secondary Resources associated with the Extant Dwelling

The secondary resources included with the nominated property were constructed during Mr. Webster's ownership. The ca. 1942 **Oyster House** stands near the shore of Cherrystone Inlet and was used for entertaining. The tall, one-story, octagonal-shaped brick building is covered by a pyramidal roof of concrete shingles and holds a large exterior brick chimney on the north end with a corbelled cap and stepped shoulders. Small gable-roofed dormers are present on the northeast and southwest sides of the roof. The main entrance to the building, located on the east side, is accessed by a brick walkway leading from the main house. The wooden paneled door features a fanlight above. A door on the north side of the building features tall wooden panels and a round window. The other sides of the building hold round wooden windows with operable lower sashes. The interior is a single space with a concrete floor, brick walls, and a wooden ceiling. A large metal grate extends from the firebox of the fireplace on the north side of the space.

The ca. 1942 **secondary dwelling**, located northeast of the Oyster House and along the same brick pathway, is a one-story, frame building on a brick pier foundation. The house is clad with vinyl siding and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of standing-seam metal. The three-bay front (east) elevation holds a centrally located entrance flanked by six-over-six wooden sash windows. The projecting gable-roofed front porch is enclosed with screen. A large exterior brick chimney is present on the north end of the house and an interior brick chimney is located on the south end. A one-story ell projects from the rear (west side) of the house and is covered by a gable roof with a catslide to the north. An additional interior brick chimney is located on the ell and a gable-roofed hood shelters a secondary entrance on the south side of the ell.

Several outbuildings added to the property about 1942 line the driveway north and northeast of the main dwelling. The **Doll House** is a small, one-story, single-space frame building located almost directly north of the pool house. The building stands on a brick pier foundation, is clad with vinyl siding, and is covered by a metal-clad, front-facing gable roof. The entrance, located on the south end of the building, is protected by a gable-roofed entry porch that features square wooden supports. The building is known as the Doll House because it was purpose-built for display of Mrs. Webster's doll collection. Historical photographs

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(ca. 1960) show the interior of the building finished with wooden floors, beaded-board wainscot, vertical board wall covering, and a simple wooden fireplace mantel on the north wall (see Additional Documentation 3 and 4). Windows in the building are nine-over-nine wooden sash.

A small, frame **garden shed** is located north behind the kitchen wing of the house. The building stands on a concrete foundation, is clad with vinyl siding, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of uneven slope. A plain wooden entrance door and a six-over-six wooden sash window are present on the south side of the building. Three large concrete block basins stand in front of the garden shed and may have been used as raised beds for a kitchen garden.

The **garage** is a one-story, three-bay building located northeast of the main dwelling. It is set on a concrete slab foundation, is clad with vinyl siding, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of concrete shingles. Three paneled wooden overhead doors on the south side of the garage give access to the concrete-floored interior.

A small, one-story frame **shed** stands east of the garage. This two-bay building is clad with vinyl siding and covered by a side-facing gable roof of concrete shingles. A pair of wooden sliding doors is centrally located on the south elevation. The building is located on the south edge of the formal garden and historically may have been used as a garden shed or used for equipment storage.

The **garden** and its associated **gazebo** stand northeast of the house, but within the fenced curtilage. The garden site is enclosed by a wooden picket fence, which surrounds the remnants of this once formal garden. Ornamental shrubs and mature trees are present. The area was cleared of overgrown vegetation for replanting in the near future, but remains a work in progress. The garden was put in during the Webster ownership and the house and garden were often featured during the annual Historic Garden Week tour sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia.

The wooden **gazebo** is located on the north edge of the garden. The octagonal-shaped structure is set on a brick foundation and features arched openings and a half-wall clad with vinyl siding. The pyramidal roof is clad with wooden shingles.

Architectural Integrity Statement

The architectural resources at Eyreville retain good overall integrity. The house and its associated outbuildings retain very good integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Long-tenured historic ownership of the land by wealthy Eastern Shore families since the seventeenth century has preserved its agricultural fields and surrounding woodlands. In addition, the Eyre Neck peninsula and the waterways that surround it remain free of modern construction or intrusions.

The evolved nature of the main dwelling—from 1800 to about 1942—has necessarily altered some features of the house and the house's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additions have mostly been sympathetic to the original character of the house and primary materials (brick, slate, and wood) remain evident through all construction periods. The floorplan also has been altered, but reflects the evolution of the dwelling throughout the years and has gained its own historical significance. Notable changes include construction of the porches on the Period III section of the house, which was undertaken by early-twentieth century owner, W. Dixon Nottingham. Nottingham constructed the front (south) entrance porch and the east side screened-in porch. It may have been during his ownership that new window openings were added to the

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east and west side elevations of the Period I section of the house, which is evidenced by the altered brickwork at those locations.⁶

Other alterations and additions were undertaken in the 1940s by Guy L. Webster, including removal of original woodwork in the Period I house and the addition of an infill wing on the west side of the center portion of the house. Webster also added the shed-roofed kitchen wing on the north side of the house and the connecting corridor and dependencies on the north/northwest side of the house. It may have been at that time that the house roofs were clad with the present slate shingles. While substantial, these alterations and additions do not significantly affect the integrity of the nineteenth-century house sections.

The present physical condition of the house is fair to good. Exterior brick walls show evidence of repointing efforts and patching of bricks are evident in the walls. On the interior, most woodwork and all mantels appear to be intact. Because the house has not been occupied for some years, the condition of the plaster walls and ceilings are in need of maintenance. The current owner has replaced several damaged, large (12x14") windows panes with hand-blown panes from the Blenko Glass Company and has replicated the original Schumacher wallpaper in the front parlor. Overall, however, the interior floorplan, the building, and its foundations appear sound. Sections of the dependencies have been occupied in recent years. In 2020, a fire in the pool house significantly damaged the interior of the dependency and some of its structure.

Archaeological Site Narrative Description

The following description is based on information provided by Michael Clem and Michael B. Barber, PhD, VDHR Archaeologists, who have headed the archaeological investigations at Eyreville.⁷ Jenean Hall's historical research completed in support of the archaeological investigations also informs the discuss of Colonial period occupants.

Summary Paragraph

The archaeological site associated with the Eyreville property (44NH0507) lies west of the present house site about midway to the shore of Cherrystone Inlet. Although trees have been planted in the yard, the site is of sufficient depth that the features have not been significantly disturbed. In 2016, the present owner notified VDHR archaeological staff of artifacts observed during the removal of a tree in the house yard. On-site observations noted numerous yellow (Dutch) bricks, pipe stems, coins, and ceramics. Subsequent subsurface excavations revealed the remains of three domestic dwelling sites, a possible storage pit or cellar, and a well that date from the early to late seventeenth century. The site has produced a prodigious array of artifacts from Native American pipes to English coins and Dutch-made bricks. The site retains excellent integrity and the features have produced artifacts dating only to the period of occupation, thus confirming intact stratified cultural levels at this site. Documentary research undertaken in support of the archaeological investigations has confirmed and expanded the understanding and identification of the artifacts and is discussed in more detail in Section 8.

Narrative Description

The Contact Period archaeological site associated with Eyreville (44NH0507) contains artifacts and features dating from the 1620s through the 1670s or 1680s. The environment and physical setting in which the archaeological site is located retains its domestic and agricultural character, although historically occupied for about 400 years. As noted, several mature trees and shrubs have been planted in the Eyreville house yard,

⁶ Windows inserted after original construction are present on the first floor, east side, northern bay and on the west side, first floor, northern bay.

⁷ Michael Clem and Michael B. Barber, PhD, "Background Research and Excavations at the Eyreville Site (44NH0507)," Unpublished manuscript, [2022].

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but the archaeological deposits have not been significantly disturbed by cultivation or construction activities. The location along the shores of Cherrystone Inlet with its immediate access to Chesapeake Bay is intact and enhances the historic context of the historic occupation of the site and particularly related to the historic owner's occupation and immense success as a trader and merchant. Subsistence agriculture was undertaken on the surrounding farmland and agricultural industrial activities, such as tanning, also were conducted on the property. The present investigations and known sites, however, relate solely to the domestic occupation/house sites of the earliest inhabitants. Thus far, no features have been identified that correspond to housing for indentured or enslaved occupants who are known, through historical records, to have been part of the Kendall (seventeenth century) and Eyre (nineteenth century) households.

The archaeological site corresponds to the period of occupation beginning with the property's ownership by John Howe, who was living on the Eastern Shore as early as 1623 and lived at the Eyreville property until his death in 1637. Implicit in that occupation of the land is that he must have constructed a house in the 1630s. The second owner, Edward Robins, held the land for only a few years until his death in 1640. It is in Robins' documents that the property is first referred to as "Newport House." Robin's brother, Obedience, oversaw the operations at the property until 1657, when William Kendall purchased 600 acres from Robins' daughters. Although Kendall arrived in the Virginia colony as an indentured servant, he eventually served several terms as a county commissioner on the local courts, as a multi-term burgess at Jamestown, and was speaker of that body a year before his death (1686). Kendall obtained the rank of Colonel and was a successful businessman and trader. He owned a tannery on the creek to the south of the property where he resided and by 1664, he owned several slaves (William, Charles, and Mingo) and a share in ship. There is some documentary evidence suggesting that a ship may have been constructed at the Eyreville property, as well. The subject property stayed in the Kendall family until it was sold to the Eyre family in 1797 who then built the extant plantation house. This succession of ownership within only a few families with distinct and deep ties to the Eastern Shore and its retention into the twentieth century as a large-acreage property has contributed to the preservation of the archaeological site and the later architectural resources on the property.

VDHR has thus far has sponsored (in partnership with the Archeological Society of Virginia and the U.S. Forest Service's Passport in Time program) three field schools and conducted several additional investigations at the site. In May 2017, the first investigation consisted of excavation of 48 test pits (2.5-foot square). Excavation around the site of a fallen tree, where artifacts were first observed by the present owner, produced evidence of one, and possibly two, post-in-ground structure dating to the site's earliest period of historic occupation, ca. 1620-1630. The footprint appears to correspond to a "Virginia House," a regional form that emerged in the Chesapeake region by the second quarter of the seventeenth century reflecting simplified construction techniques built to serve immediate housing needs.⁸ There is also evidence of a filled cellar or pit related to a post-in-ground structure likely from the early years of occupation.⁹

⁸ Carl R. Lounsbury, "The Design Process" in *The Chesapeake House: Architectural Investigation by Colonial Williamsburg*, Cary Carson and Carl R. Lounsbury, eds. (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 67. Such earthfast building (i.e., lacking foundations) has been termed "impermanent architecture" due to its intentionally transitory nature built by English colonists for immediate shelter until their fortunes improved. "...many colonists, just starting out, regarded earthfast buildings as adequate for their immediate purposes, but inferior to those they expected to construct later." Cary Carson, Norman F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Garry Wheeler Stone, and Dell Upton, "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies," *Winterthur Portfolio* Vol. 16, No. 2/3 (Summer - Autumn, 1981), 141.

⁹ Michael Clem, Archaeologist, Eastern Region Preservation Office, Department of Historic Resources, "Archaeology at Eyreville, Northampton County," Department of Historic Resources Archaeology Blogs, updated December 21, 2021. Retrieved from the VDHR website on January 11, 2023 at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/articles-blogs-contributions-in-newsletters/update-on-archaeology-at-eyreville-northampton-county/>.

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In addition, the foundations of two larger brick structures have been uncovered that likely represent the houses built by Col. William Kendall at some point after 1657 (known as the “Newport House” in historical documents and records). One of the house sites measures 16-feet wide by 32-feet long with evidence of a bulkhead entrance to a cellar at the southwest corner and a nicely finished stone-tiled floor in what was likely an “English basement.” Another feature, identified by ground-penetrating radar and verified through subsurface testing, is a seventeenth-century well.¹⁰

Artifacts recovered at the site so far complement what has been discovered in the early documents. There is very good evidence confirming the first years of the site’s occupation including a number of Richmond and Lennox farthings dating to the 1620s and 1630s, a jeton from the late sixteenth to the early seventeenth century, tobacco pipes from the early decades of the seventeenth century, a great deal of blue-and-gray stoneware from the Rhine River valley, sgraffito slipware from North Devonshire, England, and tin-glazed earthenware tiles are among the ceramics. Artifacts and historical documents indicate trade with Dutch merchants and possibly the occupation of Dutch colonists at the site. Hundreds of yellow Dutch bricks, manufactured in Gouda, have been found on site and are a material typically found only on the earliest of colonial sites. The number of Dutch tobacco pipes, identified through hallmarks and the elaborate stem decoration, points to this early trade as well. English-made pipes also were recovered and more than 800 locally made, red clay tobacco pipe bowls and fragments recovered were likely manufactured by Native Americans living on the Shore and in the Chesapeake region.¹¹ These pipe bowls are decorated with motifs depicting flying birds, running deer, and corn stalks. Numerous trade beads recovered at the site also indicate trade with the native population.

Several other potential structures and features have been observed in further excavations. None of the features show any evidence of disturbance or loss of integrity. The earliest structures have yielded only artifacts appropriate for the period. Each distinct feature serves as a time capsule for the few decades when it was in use and then abandoned, sealed, and a new structure occupied some 50 feet away.

Archaeological Integrity Statement

This site has been continuously occupied since about 1630 when John Howe is presumed to have first built his house. VDHR archaeologists believe this is the oldest Colonial site to be excavated on the Delmarva Peninsula and recovered artifacts correspond to similar finds at Jamestown and other Colonial-era sites in the Chesapeake region. The work completed to date represents a core area and as more archaeology is completed in the future, the boundaries may increase to enlarge the concept of this architectural and archaeology historic district. Excavations, documentary evidence, and historical research on the occupants reveal that the site retains a high level of all aspects of integrity.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Of the 1,878 pipe fragments recovered through excavation, 44 percent are of Native American origin. Mike Clem and Taft Kiser, “Tobacco Pipes from 17th-Century Eyreville, Northampton County, Eastern Shore,” Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archaeology Blogs, updated February 1, 2022. Retrieved from the VDHR website on January 11, 2023 at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/articles-blogs-contributions-in-newsletters/tobacco-pipes-from-17th-century-eyreville-northampton-county-eastern-shore/>.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic—Non-Aboriginal
EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

ca.1637-1945

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

John Howe (ca.1594]-ca.1637)
Col. William Kendall (1621-1686)
William Littleton Eyre (1806-1852)
Guy L. Webster (1885-1976)

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The nominated property at Eyreville encompasses about 6.5 acres of a 17-acre parcel at the western end of Eyreville Neck in Northampton County, Virginia. The neck, situated about eight miles north of Cape Charles, extends west from U.S. Route 13/Charles M. Lankford, Jr., Memorial Highway and is bounded by Old Castle Creek on the north, Eyreville Creek on the south, and Cherrystone Inlet to the west, which opens onto Chesapeake Bay. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district that possesses a concentration of buildings, structures, and sites that are united historically by physical development and historic context. Eyreville is eligible on a state level under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement for its direct relationship to the early colony settlement of the region and its subsequent development. The property's archaeological resources are directly and significantly associated with the seventeenth-century settlement of the Eastern Shore and Chesapeake region by Euro-Americans, reflect the material culture of successive periods of occupation, and are historically associated with prominent families with deep ties to the origins of the Eastern Shore and its agricultural and economic growth. Eyreville is eligible on a local level under Criterion B for its association with notable historic persons who lived the productive period of their lives at the property. These include Colonial-period persons (John Howe and Col. William Kendall), Early Republic persons (William L. Eyre), and a Twentieth-Century person (Guy L. Webster). These men are known to have been significant figures in the areas of government, trade, business, and industry. Eyreville is significant on a local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the evolved two-and-a-half-story, brick Federal-era main dwelling and the later twentieth century additions to the property. The earliest section of the house was built about 1800 with a major addition in 1839. In the twentieth century, notable alterations and additions were completed, which have attained their own historical significance. Eyreville is eligible on a state level under Criterion D as a property that has yielded information important to history and that may yield additional information as archaeological investigations continue at the site. Excavations completed to date have revealed the remains of one, and possibly two, post-in-ground structures (ca. 1620-1630), two brick foundations (ca. 1657), and numerous artifacts that convey information about the domestic activities, the social and economic status of the inhabitants of these structures, and that relate to seventeenth-century trade with English and Dutch interests, as well as the local Native population. The property possesses the potential to yield additional sites, features, and artifacts that could further inform the study of early Chesapeake society, trade relations between the colonies and Europe, and other research topics related to the areas of Exploration and Settlement and Architecture. The property's period of significance extends from ca. 1637, the earliest known date of occupation by an English settler, to 1945, by which time construction of all contributing architectural resources was completed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Justification of Criteria

Criterion A: Exploration and Settlement

The property now known as Eyreville figures prominently in the early settlement of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The earliest English settlement on the Eastern Shore was in 1614, when Lt. Craddock sent a group to the peninsula to procure salt for the Jamestown fort. In the following decades, a few hearty settlers moved from the relative comforts of James' fort to the Eastern Shore, an area still considered by many as an isolated area. From documentary and archaeological evidence (discussed below), the earliest occupation of the nominated property by English colonists may date to about 1623, although the first recorded patent for the land dates to 1637. These early associations make Eyreville significant as a property that was actively

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occupied and cultivated at the inception of the colony and nation. Important economic activities were launched from the property, as well, and its earliest owners, including John Howe and William Kendall, were men who held great sway in the early legislature and local authoritative bodies (both judicial and religious). By 1797, the property was owned by the Eyre family, who gave the property its historical and current name. The Eyres are a well-known and well-established Eastern Shore family whose homeplace, Eyre Hall, located south across the creek from Eyreville, is listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Eyreville's historical record, artifacts, and buildings illustrate ways in which English colonists settled the Eastern Shore from its earliest days through the twentieth century. Both the settlement and the cultural resources associated with the nominated property reflect the domestic and agricultural lives and increasing social and economic status of its historical inhabitants.

Criterion B: Association with Persons Significant in History (Exploration and Settlement; Agriculture; Industry)

During the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the Eyreville property has been owned by men of high social, economic, and political standing, and in the twentieth century by those associated with the agricultural and industrial heritage of the Eastern Shore. The earliest English colonist associated with the property is John Howe ([ca. 1594]-ca.1638), who, records show, arrived in the Virginia colony in 1621 and by 1623/24 was living on the Eastern Shore. In 1632, Howe was appointed as one of the commissioners for the monthly Accomack County court, reflecting his status as a leader of the community and also served as a vestryman, Commander of Accomack, and a four-term representative to the House of Burgesses.¹² Because Accomack County [later renamed Northampton County] records are unbroken from 1632 to present, there is sufficient evidence to support Howe's status in the community, which is confirmed by his recorded burial in the King's Creek church chancel—a tribute reserved for high status individuals. In 1637, Howe patented 1,000 acres (for 20 headrights) extending from bay-to-sea and identified as bordering Cherrystone Creek. Eastern Shore historian, Ralph T. Whitelaw, identifies this patent as part of present-day Eyreville.¹³ It is likely that the post-in-ground foundations discovered by archaeological investigations were associated with Howe's occupation of the site.

Eyreville is also significant for its historical association with the Kendall family, which owned the property for 140 years. In 1657, Col. William Kendall (1621-1686) purchased 600 acres of the former Howe land on the west side of the peninsula (later adding adjacent lands on the west and south). William Kendall arrived in the Virginia colony as an indentured servant and, upon attaining his freedom in 1654, rapidly advanced as a skilled merchant with an international clientele. Locally, he was served on the court of Northampton County, was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and raised to Colonel in 1671, was appointed by the governor as a Special Commissioner on Indian Affairs, and served in the House of Burgesses for several terms, and was Speaker of that body.¹⁴ As was typical in other colonial communities, the political leaders often were also the largest landowners and Col. Kendall followed this pattern. At the time of his death, Col. Kendall was among the largest landowners on the Eastern Shore, in part through marriage to Susanna Baker Eyre Pott, eventually becoming one of the largest landowners on the Eastern Shore with thousands of acres on the peninsula.¹⁵ Col. Kendall occupied the Eyreville property with his

¹² Susie. M. Ames, "Beginnings and Progress," in *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Vol. 1*, Charles B. Clark, ed., (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co. Inc., 1950), 107; Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 1, Eyreville Site." Unpublished manuscript, February 2017. Howe is listed among the first burgesses from Accomack in 1632.

¹³ Whitelaw, 199. Eyreville is associated with Whitelaw's parcel designated "N44."

¹⁴ Whitelaw, 200; Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 3, Eyreville Site, 1657-1686." Unpublished manuscript, March 27, 2017.

¹⁵ Leonard W. Johnson, ed. *Ebb and Flow: a History of the Virginia Tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, 1561-1892* ([s.l: s.n.], 1982), 63; Lounsbury, 50. Kendall's marriage to Susanna, Thomas Eyre's widow, provided a direct tie to that storied Eastern Shore family. The next owner of Kendall's property, William Eyre, was a direct descendant of Kendall's stepson Thomas Eyre II (ca. 1650-1715).

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wife, family, indentured servants, and slaves, and constructed a house and warehouse on the farm. Kendall lived here during the productive period of his life as a successful international merchant, landholder, and politician. It is believed that the brick foundations discovered during archaeological investigations date to the Kendall period and are confirmed through a detailed room-by-room inventory made of the household after the death of Kendall's son, William Kendall II (c.1664-1696). The majority of artifacts recovered at the site relate to this period, including pipes, stoneware, coins, and household items and illustrate a period during which, as Dr. Lounsbury notes, "the material welfare of the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore, the amount of things in a household, and the number of specialized objects used to clothe, cook, dine, and entertain increased markedly."¹⁶

The property's association with the Eyre family began in 1797, when Kendall's descendants sold 500 acres of the farm to William Eyre (1772-1808) of Eyre Hall. Thus began a 107-year ownership by the family that would enhance the built resources on the property, add to its agricultural production, and give the land its historical name. William is credited with building the oldest section of the present two-and-a-half-story brick house on the property (ca. 1800, 1806). In 1827, Eyreville passed to William's son, William Littleton Eyre (1806-1852), whose ownership included intensive agricultural scientific experimentation and the raising of blooded racehorses on the farm.¹⁷ His agricultural experimentation with alternative fertilizers was lauded by Edmund Ruffin, noted agrarian progressive, and Eyre's "Stud Book" tracked his horse breeding activities. About 1839, William L. Eyre added the large southern section to his father's brick house, which more than doubled its footprint and reflects fashionable influences also seen in his uncle John Eyre's newly updated home, Eyre Hall. William L. Eyre was a slaveowner, but died prior to the Civil War. His son, Severn, was a Princeton graduate and received a legal degree from Harvard. He inherited not only his father's Eyreville holdings, but also his great-uncle John's Eyre Hall estate. In 1860, Severn was one of the wealthiest men in Northampton County with over 1,000 acres between the two family estates, 90 slaves; his real estate holdings were valued at \$70,000 and his personal property was assessed at \$50,000. With his move to Eyre Hall, the family's occupation of Eyreville ended, although Severn retained ownership of the property until 1904.

In 1942, Guy L. Webster (1885-1976) became the owner of Eyreville and added the attached dependencies to the rear of the house, many of the outbuildings, and a formal garden. Webster, whose canning factory in nearby Cheriton began operations in 1921, was known as the "Canning King" and he used Eyreville's farmland to raise numerous crops. Webster owned other farms in the area and leased over 6,000 acres in cultivation at one time. By 1949, the Cheriton factory was the largest canning factory in Virginia and one of the largest independent vegetable packers in the country. In the late 1930s, newspapers reported that the factory canned about 40% of all lima beans consumed in the United States. The firm canned such Eastern Shore produce as asparagus, tomatoes, and sweet potatoes, and encouraged increased cultivation of these products in the area. The G.L. Webster Canning Company factory employed hundreds of Shore residents, including a large number of African-American workers, and provided a means to prepare locally grown produce for shipment to larger markets. During Webster's ownership, Eyreville was used as a private home and as a social space for entertaining family and friends; the surrounding acreage provided space for Webster's agricultural economic pursuits, as well. Webster spent 50 years in residence on the Eastern Shore and his impact in the areas of agriculture, business, and social history still resounds in the community. Because Webster's large manufacturing facilities in Cheriton are no longer active and only a few, late-twentieth-century warehouses remain on that site, Eyreville is the primary extant resource associated with Webster's significant productive years on the Eastern Shore.

¹⁶ Lounsbury, 46.

¹⁷ Lounsbury, 115.

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Criterion C: Architecture

Architecture:

Eyreville is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as an example of an evolved, nineteenth-century Eastern Shore plantation dwelling that represents the fortunes of prosperous agricultural production over two centuries. The two-and-a-half-story brick dwelling exhibits Federal period form and detailing, as well as later twentieth-century Colonial Revival-style modifications. The oldest section of the house, completed for William Eyre, is the rear ca. 1800 wing that was modified by the 1806 addition of a stairhall. Incised date bricks attest to the construction dates. The 1839 south end addition, completed during the ownership of William Littleton Eyre, more than doubled the footprint of the house. The front (south) and side (east) porches were added in the twentieth century and have been modified several times since. The rear colonnade and connected dependencies were added by Guy L. Webster in the 1940s. Webster also constructed the associated outbuildings on the nominated property that include the social space of the oyster house, a garage, a building for display of his wife's doll collection (Doll House), a secondary dwelling, and several sheds. Some of these buildings reflect details that appear to be inspired by the then-ongoing Colonial Williamsburg restorations. The formal garden and gazebo also are part of Webster's contributions to the property. Eyreville joins the list of important and influential early nineteenth-century dwellings in the region that reflect the then-emerging Federal style and the later influence of the Colonial Revival style. The social status of those for whom it was built is evident in its all-brick construction, stylistic woodwork, and notable marble mantelpieces.

Criterion D: Exploration and Settlement (Exploration and Settlement; Architecture)

Under Criterion D, Eyreville is significant in the area of Exploration and Settlement due to the presence of important, intact seventeenth-century archaeological features and sites that correspond to the earliest known occupation of this land by English colonists. Since 2017, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) has conducted several field schools and additional investigations at the property that have located the sites of two post-in-ground structures and one brick structure. Artifacts recovered from intact stratified cultural levels at these locations date the features to the early and mid-seventeenth century, corresponding to the earliest European occupation of the property confirmed by county records. VDHR archaeologists believe that the Eyreville site is the oldest Colonial site excavated to date on the Delmarva peninsula.

Research Design

The four archaeological field schools and several additional investigations on the property have yielded important information about the site's integrity, the estimated time periods of occupation, and the spatial analysis of the site. Survey strategies employed included historic map projection, oral history, metal detection, surface observation, and subsurface testing. Field investigations included excavation of 48 test units (2.5 feet square) and evidence obtained indicates continuous occupation since about 1635 onward with multiple houses and other structures through the 170 years or so before the current ca. 1799 house was built.

The fieldwork has been supported by in-depth documentary research, which corroborates and illuminates the significance of the findings at the site. The locations of the discovered features, including post-in-ground and brick foundations, suggest that occupation of the site moved from south to north, then eventually east to the present house location. The advancement from earthfast to brick construction also signifies the improving economic conditions of the inhabitants, which is further reflected in the recovered artifacts. The furnishings and contents of the eighteenth-century Eyreville house of William Kendall and his son William L. Kendall are well-documented in the inventory compiled after William L.'s death. The inventory list, compiled in 1698, is presumed to include items inherited by the younger William from his father, who died just three years earlier. The post-in-ground structures can address research questions relating to the early struggles of starting a plantation in a remote area of the colony and the adaptations made by the colonists.

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The brick structures relate directly to the increase in wealth, household comforts, and the life of a wealthy planter and businessman on the Eastern Shore. Artifacts recovered to date convey important information on the settlers' trade with the local Native people, as well as international trade with Dutch and English interests.

Research Questions

Given the substantial documentary evidence related to the property, many fascinating avenues for further archaeological research have presented themselves.

- Questions about the rise of wealth in the early days of settlement and the emerging tobacco culture may be examined as researchers study the material culture related to the multiple occupations at the site: from the first post-in-ground structure at the south end of the site through the later episodes of building related to the Kendall period in the northern portion and the eastern Eyre portion of the site.
- Through studying the nearly 2,000 tobacco pipes already excavated, and those still to be recovered, much can be learned about the people occupying the property through time. This includes the owners, the indentured, and the enslaved populations. It may also help to answer questions about the Native population and their interactions and trade with colonists, since nearly half the pipes are of Native American manufacture, and some may have been manufactured onsite or nearby. Further answers may be found about interactions with the Native population, as well, by an examination of the beads found in the excavations. Researchers may also learn more about Dutch settlement in the Cherrystone Creek area. Several documents hint at this possibility and perhaps the answers are there in the ground.
- Eyreville has produced more yellow Dutch bricks than any other site in Virginia; in addition, almost as many Dutch-made pipes as English-made pipes have been found at the site. Why is that? Is this a property where Dutch were living during Howe's time or perhaps Kendall's? Documentary evidence indicates that Kendall had close ties to the Dutch and even travelled to Amsterdam on business.
- Another line of research could provide information on the presence of Dutch ships on the Eastern Shore, perhaps at the Eyreville property, about the time of Howe's death. There is documentation that in Spring 1638, a Dutch ship visited the Virginia colony bringing a "commission from the young Queen of Sweden." This commission sought "to have free trade for tobacco to carry to Sweden," but the Virginia governor and council denied them any tobacco.¹⁸ The ship, the *Kalmar Nyckel*, stayed ten days in port (present-day Hampton) and then left with another ship, the *Fogel Grip*, both "bound for Delaware Bay" where they intended to "make a plantation and plant tobacco." The ships carried representatives of the New Sweden Company to the site of present-day Wilmington, Delaware, where they named their fort "Christina," in honor of their twelve-year-old queen. Prior to joining up with the *Kalmar Nyckel*, had the *Fogel Grip* "scouted" the Eastern Shore looking for willing farmers (or fugitive indentured servants or enslaved laborers) to help establish the new Dutch colony? Had these two ships detoured into Cherrystone Creek on their way to Delaware Bay? Had they visited the shipbuilding in progress at Howe's, talked to the men there over some bowls of tobacco? Had they tried to entice a few workers, turning their heads with gifts, perhaps some pipes? Did they offload brick ballast to take on contraband tobacco?
- Another set of questions could be found and answered here in relation to the early occupations of the enslaved Africans at Eyreville. The first English owner of the property, John Howe, transported Black headrights into the colony, who may have lived at the site with Howe. We know that William Kendall, who occupied the land beginning in 1657, held slaves during his lifetime (identified in the

¹⁸ Virginia Historical Society, "Virginia in 1638. Harvey's Second Administration (Continued)," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol. 10, no. 4 (April 1903), 424.

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List of Tithables), and his heirs after him, including William II and William III, also were slaveholders. While no definitive evidence of the enslaved people has been found archaeologically it is quite possible that it exists there in both material culture but also in the form of subsurface features that have yet to be encountered.

- The grounds at the site have fortunately never been plowed because the lawn area there has been occupied continuously for nearly 400 years. This unique fact increases the probability of recovering unaltered data sets with no modern intrusions or interruptions. It is clear that this site presents a unique opportunity to parse out the various populations that lived here, as well as to be able to establish good temporal distinctions between those eras and groups.

In short, the opportunities presented at Eyreville, given its age and level of integrity both vertically and horizontally, offer a generous number of avenues for research and study that will certainly be felt for generations. So little of the site has thus far been examined and already it has produced a book chapter related to the tobacco pipes, an unfinished book manuscript soon to be published, several research papers, and dozens of public presentations.

Historical Narrative

The following narrative history concerning the occupation of the property from the seventeenth century through the beginning of the nineteenth century is indebted to the research conducted by Jenean Hall in support of VDHR's archaeological field surveys. The nineteenth-century ownership by the Eyre family, and the period during which the majority of the present house was constructed, relies on Dr. Lounsbury's extensive study of the Eyre family, Eyre Hall, and Eyreville completed in 2021 (The Material World of Eyre Hall).

Seventeenth Century

John Howe's Ownership

The extensive record collection at the Northampton County courthouse and other colonial records provide substantial information on the seventeenth-century ownership and occupation of the Eyreville property. The first record related to the property dates to 1637 and is a patent to John Howe for 1,000 acres on Cherrystone Creek. Howe arrived in the Virginia colony in 1621 and is listed in the 1623/24 muster as living on the Eastern Shore, likely in or near the official settlement of Old Plantation.¹⁹ By the 1624/25 muster, a more detailed account of the colonists and their households, additional information is learned about Howe, including that he owned one house, one storehouse, five barrels of corn, five pounds of [gun] powder, twenty pounds of shot [though he did not own a gun], and two pieces of armor.²⁰ In 1628, Howe, identified as "Gent. Accomack Co.," leased 30 acres on the southern shore of Cherrystone Creek from Francis West for a period of 10 years.²¹ On October 24, 1637, Howe, who had attained the rank as captain, received a patent for 1,000 acres "on Cherrystones Cr. to the Ewd." for the transportation of 20 persons, including four

¹⁹ The 1623/24 muster lists 76 individuals on the Eastern Shore at the time. Jamestowne Society, "Lists of The Living & Dead in Virginia-February 16th, 1623." As transcribed from "Colonial Records of Virginia," (Richmond, VA: R.F. Walker, Superintendent Public Printing, Clemmitt & Jones, Printers, 1874), 38-68. Accessed on the Jamestowne Society website at: <https://www.jamestowne.org/1623-lists-of-living--dead.html>. Listed as "John How" on the Eastern Shore. This muster is a list of those who were alive in the colony and where they lived following attacks on English settlements by Native Americans in March 1622. Also available in "Colonial Records of Virginia," (Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., 1992).

²⁰ Virtual Jamestown, "1624/25 Databases." Accessed at the Virtual Jamestown website at <http://www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/introduction.htmlc>. N.B. Howe appears as "Home" in this database. By comparison with others on the Eastern Shore, his possessions suggest a subsistence level.

²¹ Nell Marion Nugent, *Abstracts of Land Patents [Virginia] 1666-1732*, (Richmond, VA: n.d.) Volume 1, No. 1:14. (Citing Patent Book 1, page 87, Sept 20, 1628)

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Black headrights (not named) and three women.²² In 1636, however, a patent from Capt. John West to Edward Drew for 300 acres refers to Howe as an adjacent landowner—“Northerly upon the land of John Howe”—suggesting that Howe was already occupying the land by the time of the 1637 patent. For how many years before his formal ownership is uncertain, but, given the documentary and archaeological evidence, Howe may have occupied the property as much as a decade earlier. Implicit in that occupation of the land is that he must have constructed a house in the 1630s.²³ Papers filed in connection with a dispute between John Neale and John Tolson about ownership of a ship also reveal that about the time of Howe’s death (1637/1638), a pinnacle was built at his house site at Cherrystone Creek. According to testimony, Howe was to procure all iron and other materials for the vessel, while Tolson provided timber and labor. Howe’s will, which has not been located but is referenced in another will, directed that his property be sold to pay his debts.²⁴

John Howe lived on the Eastern Shore during the first decade of English settlement on the peninsula. During his time there, Howe held the status as a “gentleman” and acquired both military rank and political standing. As early as 1624, he provided testimony at court in James City and was executor for the estate for Luke Aden, one of Howe’s claimed headrights. Beginning in 1631, Howe served as a Burgess for Accomack [Accawmacke] to the General Assembly, a seat that he filled for four sessions; he was also a vestryman and a commissioner for the county court. As Commander of Accomack, he was made a Captain in the militia. As evidence of Howe’s noble standing in the community, he was buried in the chancel of the ca. 1623 church then standing at King’s Creek (north of present-day Cape Charles)—an honor reserved for persons of high social status.²⁵

Robins Ownership

At the ca. 1638 auction of John Howe’s land, Nathaniel Littleton purchased the 1,000 tract and soon thereafter sold it to Edward Robins, who had been a London merchant and came to the Virginia colony in 1621.²⁶ It is in Robins’ documents that we find the property first referred to as “Newport House,” a name of uncertain origin. Reference also is made to a house on the middle section of the patent, which may be a house constructed earlier by John Howe. Robins died in 1640, only two years after acquiring the property, and his holdings descended to his widow and daughters, who had remained in England. After Robins’ death, his brother, Obedience Robins, was named Administrator of the estate and oversaw active agricultural operations on the “Newport” lands likely through the labor of indentured servants and/or through lease to others. Obedience Robins, who arrived in Virginia with his brother in 1621, became a very prominent member of Eastern Shore society, owned thousands of acres of land, and like John Howe, served in the House of Burgesses (for six terms), was an Accomack Commissioner, and was appoint to the Governor’s

²² Nell Marion Nugent, *Abstracts of Land Patents [Virginia] 1666-1732*, (Richmond, VA: n.d.) Vol 1 No. 3: 110. (Citing Patent book 1, page 487, Oct 24, 1637).

²³ Clem and Barber [2022].

²⁴ Hall, “Paper No. 1 Eyreville Site.” See Will of Edward Robins (1640) in James Handley Marshall, compiler, *Abstracts of the Wills and Administrations of Northampton County, Virginia, 1632-1802* (Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1994), 9.

²⁵ Hall, Paper No. 1. Hall’s sources include Susie Ames, ed., *County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia, 1632-1640* (Washington, D.C.: The American Historical Association, 1954), H.R. McIlwaine, ed., *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 1622-132, 1670-1676* (Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia, 1924), and the county records themselves. For discussion of early churches on the Eastern Shore see George Carrington Mason, “The Colonial Churches of the Eastern Shore of Virginia,” in *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine* Vol 20, Second Series, No. 4 (October 1940):448-474, and “The Six Earliest Churches on the Eastern Shore of Virginia,” *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine* Vol 21, No. 3 (July 1941):199-207.

²⁶ Marshall, 9.

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Council.²⁷ Robins' widow, Jane, married George Puddington, who had been in the Virginia colony but returned to England about 1640. About 1645, the couple travelled back to Virginia with Edward and Jane Robins' two daughters (Rachell and Elizabeth) and the Puddingtons' daughter, Mary. The family's time in Accomack was brief, since they moved to Maryland in 1650; it is unlikely that they made any significant changes to the existing house on the "Newport" property.²⁸

In 1657, the two Robins daughters, since married, sold their inherited Accomack property in three parcels: the middle section of 600 acres to William Kendall, which included the former house site; the north 200 acres to William Andrews; and the south 200 acres to Andrews, who sold it to Francis Pettitt in 1664 and which eventually became part of the Eyre Hall property. The tract purchased by Kendall was described as "towards ye head of Cherrystone Creecke" and being "all ye land upon Newporte Creek.... And on which standeth ye Cheefe Howse...."²⁹ This land transaction is useful in its reiteration of the ownership of the property by Howe, it's auction per instruction of his will, the purchase by Littleton and conveyance to Edward Robins, and the division by the Robins daughters.

William Kendall's Ownership

William Kendall (1621-1686) was born in England and worked as a clerk for a merchant before immigrating to the Virginia colony in about 1651 as an indentured servant to Edward Drew. Kendall's life is an example of the unusual rise of a colonist from indentured servant to wealthy landowner, international trader, and planter. Because of his accounting skills, he served as a clerk for Drew and, when he received his freedom in 1654, Kendall quickly rose to be one of the Eastern Shore's most successful international merchants.³⁰ Kendall would marry three times (perhaps four), including a lucrative marriage to widow Susanna Baker Eyre Pott (d.1683), which tied his family, and eventually his land, to the Eyre family.

Kendall's landholdings along the present Eyreville Neck grew to over 900 acres. He also purchased numerous tracts of land and plantations beyond Eyreville, including Chesapeake Bay islands. His economic status was matched by his political and military status: he was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and raised to Colonel in the local militia, he served as an Accomack representative to the House of Burgesses for four terms where he was elected Speaker (1686). He served as a county court justice, was appointed by the governor to a Special Committee on Indian Relations (1679), and was vestryman. Due to his political positions, Kendall served with and was engaged in business proceedings with members of the Lee and Custis families, who were prominent members of the Eastern Shore settlement.

Between 1662 and 1677, Kendall's household comprised numerous (8-20) tithables (taxable individuals) beyond his immediate family, including presumed enslaved individuals, seamen, and indentured servants. In 1664 and 1665, Kendall's household included two Black inhabitants, presumed to be enslaved, "Charles" (identified as "a boy") and "Mingo" (identified as "a woman"). In 1667, seven Black tithables were recorded in Kendall's household, but were not named; in 1668, Charles was again named in Kendall's household, along with James, Nan, and Frank, all of whom are identified only as "Negro" and also presumed to be enslaved. Kendall's large plantation and large herds of livestock (horses, sheep, and cattle) would have

²⁷ There is speculation that it was Obedience Robins who suggested the name "Northampton" for the new county created in 1643, in honor of his homeplace of Northamptonshire, England. Emily J. Salmon and Edward D.C. Campbell, Jr., *The Hornbook of Virginia History* (Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia, 1994), 167; Whitelaw, 28.

²⁸ Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 2, Eyreville Site, 1638-1657." Unpublished manuscript, March 6, 2017.

²⁹ Northampton County Deed Book (NCDB) VII:67 (September 16, 1657), also cited in Howard Mackey and Marlene Groves, eds., *Northampton County, Virginia Record Book: Deeds, Willis, &c: Vol 6 and 7-8: 1655-57* (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2002):162-164.

³⁰ Lounsbury, 58-59.

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required an equally large labor force to maintain and operate it, so other enslaved and indentured persons are assumed to have occupied the extensive Kendall landholdings during the late seventeenth century.³¹

In 1682, just a few years prior to his death, Kendall embarked on the construction of a new house at his Cherrystone Creek property. Later records suggest that Kendall was replacing an earlier dwelling with a second, larger house. It is presumed that any house erected by the original owner John Howe would have been an earthfast/post-in-ground structure. With Kendall's increasing wealth, availability of household materials and comforts, it is likely that Kendall would have constructed a more permanent (i.e., brick) house for his family.

The earliest archaeological discoveries on the Eyreville property appear to relate to the Howe period of occupation. The post-in-ground features discovered likely are those of Howe's initial buildings. Other artifacts dating to the early 1620s include a number of Richmond Farthings (1620-1630) and Jetons (late 1500s-early 1600s).³²

When William Kendall died in 1686, his third wife, Sarah Mathews, remained in their house at the Eyreville site per her husband's wishes until their son was born and then moved to land left to her by William on Hungers neck (now Wilsonia Neck). Col. Kendall's son, William (II), then came into possession of the property. No inventory was taken at the time of Col. Kendall's death, although his will refers to notable goods such as jewelry, plates and dishes, salt cellars, tablecloths, and silverware.³³

When Kendall's son William (II) died in 1696, a room-by-room inventory was made of the objects in "old" and "new" houses he inherited from his father, since Col. Kendall's estate was still unsettled. The distinction of "old" and "new" suggests that Col. Kendall had built two houses on the site. This inventory, together with artifacts recovered at the Eyreville site dating to this period, testify to the increase in the amount and the quality of goods in the Kendall household. The assemblage illustrates "the transformation of Eastern Shore society from a rough-and-tumble frontier to a more settled agricultural society in the second half of the seventeenth century.... These items [recovered artifacts] are emblematic of the emergence of a planter elite and the tentative beginnings of a gentry society that would dominate the region in the coming century."³⁴ The archaeological deposits and related artifacts illustrate how the site evolved over time from its earliest occupation by English settlers (1620s), evidenced by earthfast features, to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century, evidenced by brick foundations.

The level of wealth and the breadth of items enjoyed by the Kendall family is reflected in four primary categories of recovered artifacts: ceramics, tobacco pipes, books, and hardware. Chinese porcelain sherds, English and German wares, thousands of Dutch and Native American pipestems and bowls, metal book clasps, and metal furniture hardware are among the most notable artifacts that confirm the family's trade with European (English and Dutch) partners, as well as local Native Americans whose red/brown clay pipes are incised with images of flora and fauna.³⁵ In addition, the hundreds of Dutch "Gouda" bricks located in the foundations at the site indicate trade with Dutch merchants and possibly the occupation of the vicinity

³¹ John B. Bell, *Northampton County, Virginia, Tithables, 1662-1677* (Bowie, Md: Heritage Books, 1993).

³² Clem, "Archaeology at Eyreville, Northampton County."

³³ Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 4, Eyreville Site, 1686-1720." Unpublished manuscript, April 27, 2017. Will of William Kendall, see Walczyk 1683-1689, vol II, 18.

³⁴ Haley Hoffman, "Eyreville: Archaeology of the Late Seventeenth Century," in Lounsbury, ed., *The Material World of Eyre Hall: Four Centuries of Chesapeake History* (Baltimore, MD: Maryland Center for History and Culture, 2021), 61.

³⁵ Clem and Kiser, "Tobacco Pipes from 17th-Century Eyreville, Northampton County, Eastern Shore"; Hoffman, 61-63.

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by Dutch colonists. Such yellow Dutch bricks are found only on the earliest of colonial sites.³⁶ Dutch traders are known to have lived on the Eastern Shore in an effort to secure tobacco crops in a highly competitive market. The recovered artifacts and documentary evidence shows that although the Eastern Shore remained geographically isolated, it was not economically isolated.³⁷ Eastern Shore merchants and businessmen engaged in significant trade with the English, Dutch, and other international interests in the Atlantic world, and participated in lucrative trade between the Northern colonies and the Caribbean. Such seventeenth century trade also expanded the social and cultural world of Eastern Shore residents. It is the combination of these recovered artifacts and features with the corroborating documentary evidence that makes the Eyreville site highly significant to the study of the early Chesapeake region.

Late Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century

Early in their marriage (1709), William Kendall (III) (1687-ca.1720), deeded the Cherrystone Creek house and the surrounding 900 acres to his wife, Sorrowful Margaret Custis (ca.1692-ca.1750). After his death, she remained there until her death about 1750, at which time Custis Kendall (1708-ca.1781), great grandson of Col. William Kendall and William Kendall (III)'s son, inherited the Cherrystone Creek property. The 1782 Northampton County land tax records show Custis Kendall "died possessed of 1,625 acres," which was reduced to 704 acres by 1783. After Custis' death, the land was held by his son, William (1735-ca.1795) and after Williams' death, by Custis' widow, Nancy Kendall (1755-1806) and their eldest son, Custis, Jr. In 1797, Nancy and Custis, Jr. sold the property to William Eyre in three transactions. The deed described the property as the land that was willed by William Kendall to his son (Custis). The will conveyed "300 acres of land fronting the river [i.e., Cherrystone Creek] so as to include the dwelling house, yard, garden, and the adjoining fruit trees to be laid off by lines running eastward and westward through the middle and most beautiful part of my plantation."³⁸

William Eyre (1722-1808) was a direct descendant (great great grandson) of Thomas Eyre II (ca.1650-1715), whose mother Susanna Baker Eyre Pott had married Col. William Kendall in 1658. William and his two brothers (John and Littleton) grew up at Kendall's Cherrystone Creek property, where Kendall oversaw the boys' Eyre-related inheritance and prepared them as members of the Eastern Shore's emerging gentry class.

William's oldest brother, Littleton (Lyttleton) Eyre (1761-1789), inherited the family's homeplace at Eyre Hall (NRHP listed 1969, NHL listed 2012). Upon Littleton's death, William's older brother John (1768-1855) became the owner of Eyre Hall and he and his wife, Ann Upshur, renovated and updated the family's historic home to its present appearance.³⁹ John lived with his older brother at Eyre Hall until the late 1790s, when the brothers bought several tracts of the former Kendall estate, as noted above.

Under William's ownership, the former Kendall property, located just north of Eyre Hall across Eyre Creek, became known as Eyreville. By 1800, William and his wife, Grace D. Taylor (1780-1809), had constructed the two-story, brick dwelling that comprises the northern end of the present house at Eyreville.⁴⁰ The three-bay-wide house, since altered, is presumed to have had a center passage with a room to either side. The all-

³⁶ Clem, "Archaeology at Eyreville, Northampton County."

³⁷ Lounsbury, 36-37.

³⁸ NCDB (1794-1800) 23:291. Other transactions conveying the Kendall property to the Eyres are NCDB 23:300 and 492. Allen B. Hamilton, *Northampton County, Virginia, Land Tax Records*, Vol. 1 (1782-1799) (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2018). Land tax records for 1797 record that William Eyre's land (689 acres) included land purchased from Nancy Kendall.

³⁹ Lounsbury, 103-104.

⁴⁰ Dr. Lounsbury notes that it is William who demolished the earlier Kendall buildings that might have still been standing on the property at the turn of the nineteenth century.

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brick construction features Flemish bond exterior walls and larger interior end chimneys. Both the floorplan and the interior woodwork of this section of the house were altered in later years.

William Eyre appears to have focused most of his energies on his farming operations rather than being involved in political matters on the Eastern Shore. He did not serve in any elected positions, but did donate land for a county poor house.⁴¹ William, like his brother John, was a slaveholder and tax records show that he held 32 slaves in 1800. Many of the enslaved inhabitants likely worked as farm laborers, while others would have been domestic workers. Personal property taxes and slave schedules show that from the late 1780s into the early 1800s, the Eyre family reduced the number of slaves they owned through sale, by willing ownership of individuals to other family members or friends, and a few were given freedom. Despite such reductions, John and William Eyre were two of the largest slaveholders in Northampton County during the early decades of the nineteenth century.⁴² In 1832, one of William Eyre's slaves, Carter, was among 18 enslaved people who fled the Eastern Shore aboard a stolen whaleboat and escaped to freedom in New York City. Two of the escapees were slaves held by John Eyre. The Eyres hired a "slave catcher" to follow after the men. At least one of John Eyre's slaves was returned to Northampton County.⁴³

At present, it is not known where the enslaved housing was located at Eyreville, but like other properties of the period, those dwellings would have stood away from the main dwelling and outside the boundaries of the nominated property. It is also known that some Free Black inhabitants lived on the properties of Eyre Hall and Eyreville, as recorded in the personal property lists.

William Eyre died in 1808 and his wife, Grace, died a few months later; the couple are buried at the family cemetery at Eyre Hall. Their deaths left the Eyreville property under the watchful eye of his brother, John Eyre at Eyre Hall, who served as guardian for Williams's children (Sarah (d. 1815), Emily, and William L.). It is presumed that the children lived with John and Ann Eyre at Eyre Hall, leaving Eyreville either empty or rented for many years.

In 1827, William Littleton (Lyttleton) Eyre (1806-1852) turned 21 years old and assumed control of his inherited land. He had attended Dickinson College (PA), Hampden-Sydney, and the newly opened University of Virginia for brief stints.⁴⁴ In 1828, William married Mary Burton Savage (1804-1866), of nearby Savage Neck, and the couple soon had two children. Though William did not complete studies at the universities he attended, he had a sharp mind and an energetic spirit and embarked on the "scientific farming" promoted at the time that included fertilization of fields, rotation of crops, new plowing methods, and new livestock breeding practices. In March 1834, Eyre, who described himself as a "young farmer," submitted a lengthy essay on "Farming and Manure of the Eastern Shore of Virginia" to Edmund Ruffin's *The Farmers' Register*, in which he detailed his method of using seaweed and oyster shells as fertilizer to the betterment of his cultivated fields (an experiment then in progress). The next year, Ruffin, the pioneering agronomist and publisher of *The Farmers' Register*, visited Eyre's farm to observe his practices. Ruffin

⁴¹ Lounsbury, 412; Northampton County Order Book, No. 34, 1801-1807, 20 (April 14, 1801).

⁴² Lounsbury, 107; NC Personal Property Tax Lists, 1799-1860; U.S. Census Slave Schedule, Northampton County, 1860.

⁴³ For a detailed account of the daring escape, see Alexandra Rosenberg, "Escaping Enslavement by Whaleboat, 1832" in *The Material World of Eyre Hall*, Lounsbury, ed., 2021:132-138.

⁴⁴ Dr. Lounsbury details Eyre's expulsion from the University of Virginia for his participation in a student riot in 1825 that included attacks on professors and their pavilion homes. Lounsbury, 113-114.

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gave high praise to the young farmer, noted the increase of productivity of the land, and admired Eyre's use of manure and crushed oyster shells as soil enhancements.⁴⁵

In addition to farming for subsistence and profit, Eyre also undertook the breeding of blooded racehorses for sport. Horse racing was a prominent pastime for the wealthy gentry during the early nineteenth century and Eyre kept a detailed "Stud Book" documenting his breeding operations. Although John Eyre is known to have had a stallion that stood stud at Eyre Hall, his nephew's endeavors were more extensive and aimed at improving his status as a serious blood horse breeder. As Dr. Lounsbury notes, "William L. Eyre stands out as the greatest horse enthusiast in the family history.... [He] had grown up in a culture and family saturated in both utilitarian and recreational horses." Just as he did with his agricultural experiments, Eyre was eager to share his breeding successes through reports to noted racing and breeding periodicals of the time, such as *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*.⁴⁶

Eyre's activities in horseracing included betting, and his debts took a heavy toll on his personal property holdings. County record books show that he was forced to mortgage Eyreville and other property, accept money from friends and relatives, and even sell property long-held by the Eyre family (including part of Eyreville) to pay his betting debts.⁴⁷

Such solvency issues did not dissuade William from adding substantially to the existing house at Eyreville. About 1839, the two-and-a-half-story brick section of Eyreville was added to the south end of the 1800 dwelling, more than doubling its footprint. The center passage house features an elliptical archway and paneled woodwork; rooms to either side of the hall were equipped with carved marble mantelpieces. There are faint similarities between the Eyreville addition and the updated and more refined details and finishes completed at Eyre Hall in the 1820s, which William would have witnessed and lived in prior to taking up residence at Eyreville (Figure 11). Perhaps feeling that his father's house was "small" and "outdated," William may have wanted his house to appear as a contemporary, fashionable gentleman's residence.

Northampton County land tax records for 1820 list William L. Eyre ("orphan" [not yet at his majority]) with 526.5 acres on the Hungars tract with a value of \$250 for buildings and 500.75 acres at Cheriton (Eyreville) with a value of \$1,500 for buildings. In 1840, following the completion of the new section of

⁴⁵ W.S.(sic) Eyre, "Farming and Manure of the Eastern Shore of Virginia," *The Farmers' Register*, 1, no. 12 (May 1834): 731; "Notes of a Hasty View of the Soil and Agriculture of Part of the County of Northampton," *Farmers' Register*, 3, no. 4 (August 1835):239, cited in Lounsbury, 115.

⁴⁶ Lounsbury, 147-148.

⁴⁷ Lounsbury, 115.

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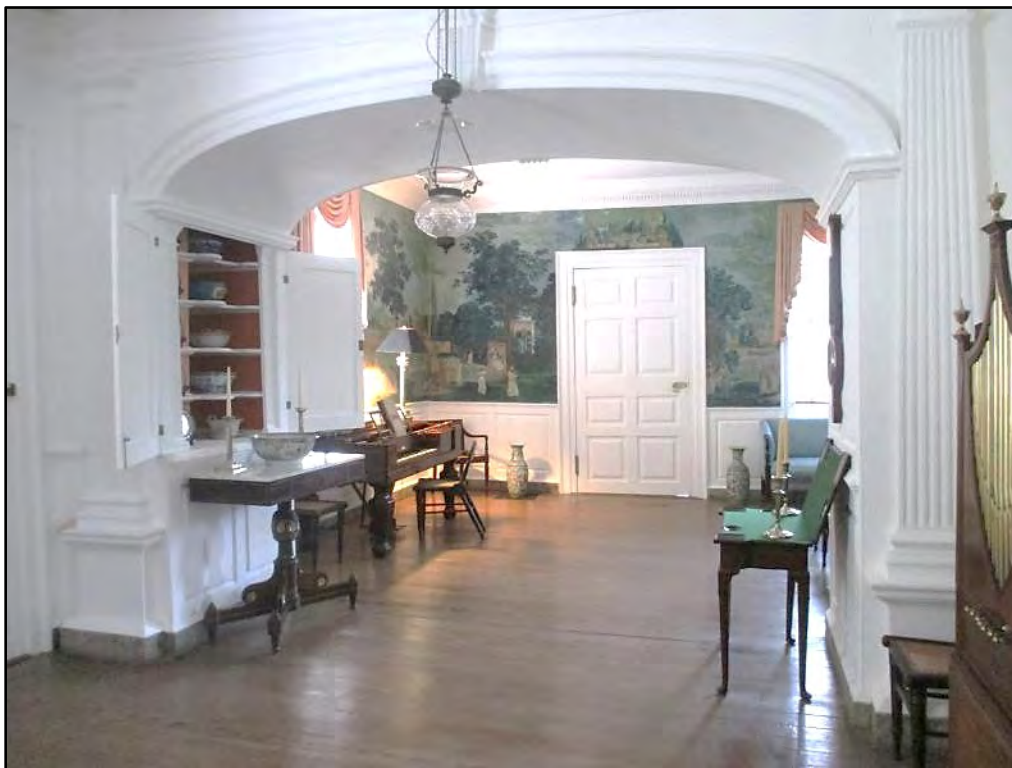


Figure 11. Eyre Hall (NHL) Center Hall, Looking North (Debra McClane, 2014)

the house, William L. Eyre's buildings were valued at \$4,000, which equaled the valuation for the buildings at Eyre Hall. Like his father, William L. Eyre was a slaveholder and the personal property records for 1840 list 51 enslaved individuals in his household (31 of whom were over 12 years old); in 1850, just a couple years before his death, federal census slave schedules show that William held 36 enslaved people and his uncle John held 50.⁴⁸

In 1850, William L. Eyre's unpaid debts resulted in his imprisonment in the debtors' jail in Eastville, and the auction of his Eyreville estate. Perhaps to save the family's reputation, and to keep the Eyreville property in family ownership, John Eyre was the winning bidder on the property. Much of the estate was then placed in William's wife's name, Mary. William L. Eyre died two years later in 1852 and is buried in the family cemetery at Eyre Hall.

Eyreville passed to William's only son and eldest child, Severn (1831-1914). Severn Eyre graduated from Princeton and earned a law degree from Harvard in 1852. In 1854, Severn married Margaret Stirling, and the couple lived in Baltimore; Margaret died within in the year, however, and Severn returned to the Eastern Shore. Within months, Severn's great uncle John died at Eyre Hall, leaving Severn as his heir.⁴⁹ Records indicate that Severn and his mother, Mary, left Eyreville and moved to Eyre Hall beginning about 1855.

On the cusp of the Civil War, Severn assumed his father's and his great uncle's property, and was one of the wealthiest men in Northampton County. The 1860 census lists his household with 90 enslaved

⁴⁸ Allen B. Hamilton, *Northampton County, Virginia Land Tax Records Vol. 2 (1800-1825) and Vol. 3 (1826-1850)*; (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2018); Allen B. Hamilton, *Northampton County, Virginia Personal Property 1821-1850* (Millsboro, DE : Colonial Roots, 2016).

⁴⁹ John Eyre is buried at the family cemetery at Eyre Hall with his wife Ann (Anna) Upshur Eyre (1780-1829).

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inhabitants and 10 slave houses, making him one of the county's larger slaveholders. The 1861-1862 land and personal property tax records record that he owned 1,079 acres at Eyre Hall and 600.75 acres at Eyreville, four pleasure carriages, 24 horses and mules, 43 cattle, 80 hogs, and 90 sheep.⁵⁰ Severn held no public or political offices, and it appears that the management of his land and property occupied his time.

During the Civil War, the Eastern Shore was largely controlled by Union forces, and Severn and his mother remained at Eyre Hall ostensibly as Union supporters—a stance taken likely more out of practicality than other sentiments. Throughout the war years, records show the decline in number and value of Severn's land and livestock; his labor force also declined as enslaved people flee to freedom or to join Union forces camped locally.⁵¹ Federal troops are known to have encamped on the Eyreville property, but physical damage to the Eyre holdings does not appear to have occurred or to have been substantial. Economic effects were felt by the family, but their financial reserves provided security through the conflict.

In 1865, Severn married Margaret Parker (1840-1899) of Old Castle, located north of Eyreville across Cherrystone Creek. Severn's mother, Mary, died in 1866, and beginning in the 1870s, John and Maggie and their three children spent long spans of time away from the Eastern Shore and in the regional cities of Norfolk, Washington, and Baltimore. Maggie's parents, John and Ann Parker, moved into Eyreville during this time and in 1879, Maggie's younger sister, Lucy, was married at the house.⁵² The Eyres' occupied their Eastern Shore properties as holiday and summer retreats.

Twentieth Century

During the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, Severn Eyre's farmland was leased to local farms and occupied, in part, by numerous sharecropper families. In July 1904, Severn sold the Eyreville farm to R. Fulton Powell, Francis J. Purnell, and B.T. Tilghman of Worcester County, Maryland for \$21,500.⁵³ The transaction may have been an investment for the group, which did not retain the property long.

A newspaper announcement from November 1904 advertised the public auction of a wide array of livestock, implements, and harvested crops to be held at Eyreville Farm (Figure 12). The seller, Arthur Downing Upshur Addison, a distant descendent of William Kendall, is identified in the 1900 census as a 47 year old farmer who rented his farmland (assumed to be Eyreville); by 1910, Addison is listed as a retail merchant in Eastville.⁵⁴ The sale of Addison's livestock and implements came just months after Severn's sale of the property and it is assumed that the change in ownership also resulted in the end of Addison's lease for Eyreville.

In September 1905, Northampton County native William Dixon Nottingham (1869-1938) purchased Eyreville from the Powell, Purnell, Tilghman consortium for \$15,000 and moved into the house with his family. Reservations made in the deed to Nottingham provide insight into the activities of Powell, Purnell, and Tilghman and their interest in the Eyreville farm. The deed states that the grantors "expressly reserve all the timber of every kind [on the farm] with the privilege of cutting, hauling, and manufacturing the same

⁵⁰ 1860 Census

⁵¹ Lounsbury, 119-120.

⁵² Lounsbury, 123.

⁵³ NCB D 55:486; Item in the *Peninsula Enterprise*, Volume 24, Number 2, July 30, 1904. The deed conveyed 620 acres of the farm, including the house site. Powell controlled ½ interest in the purchased and Tilghman and Purnell controlled ¼ each. In the deed, Severn Eyre reserved access to a right-of-way through the farm and the right to take oysters from the adjacent waters for three years beginning on January 1, 1905. Severn's signature on the deed was affirmed by a notary in the City of Baltimore, where he was living at the time.

⁵⁴ Miles Files; 1900 and 1910 census.

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within three years from 1 January 1906.” They also reserved free use and benefit of the “new settlement on said farm and two acres of land adjacent and the shanties around the mill” and use of the two new “tenements” recently built on the property.⁵⁵ The mill site was about halfway between the main road and the Eyreville house.

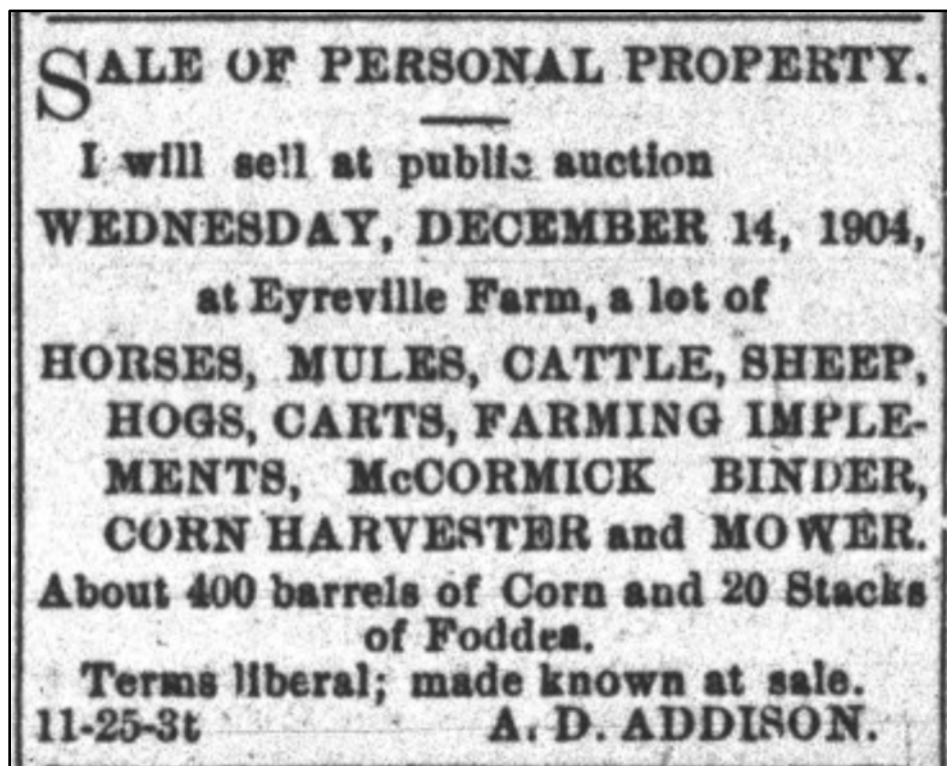


Figure 12. *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 25, Number 8, November 25, 1904

Nottingham, described in newspapers as a “trucker” (truck farmer), was a local businessman and was active in the social life of the Eastern Shore. Whitelaw notes that Nottingham added the front porches (front and side) to the Eyreville house, which the newspaper described as “a handsome old place.”⁵⁶ In 1914, a photograph of the house appeared in a local newspaper showing the new porches (Figure 13).

⁵⁵ NCDB 57:425.

⁵⁶ “Eyreville Farm Sold,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 25, Number 52, September 29, 1905; Obituary, William Dixon Nottingham, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, November 23, 1938; Whitelaw, 203.

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Figure 13. *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 35, Number 23, March 14, 1914

Nottingham's brother, Carey Fentress "Fenn" Nottingham, joined his brother at Eyreville and farmed the land for about 18 years. Carey, his wife, Fannie, and their daughters lived on the property. The Eyreville house saw the happy occasion of their daughter Elizabeth's wedding, but also was the site of her untimely funeral in 1932 when she was killed in an automobile accident on U.S. Route 13 not far from the house.⁵⁷ In 1925, after 20 years at Eyreville, W. Dixon Nottingham advertised at public auction the sale of a large portion of his personal property, which included agricultural equipment and livestock. The reasons for the sale are unstated, but occurred soon after his brother Cary's death.⁵⁸

In 1930, a fire completely destroyed one of Eyreville's tenant houses that stood just a few hundred yards away from the main dwelling. A newspaper account of the fire stated that tenant S. Benjamin Tyler, his

⁵⁷ "Elizabeth Nottingham Kelley," Obituary, *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 38, July 16, 1932.

⁵⁸ "A Public Auction of Valuable Personal Property," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 42, Number 50, December 12, 1925; "Mr. C. Fentress Nottingham," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 42, Number 27, June 6, 1925.

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wife, and daughter occupied the house, and the loss was estimated at about \$4,000. Another fire was recorded at the main house on Christmas Day 1936. A newspaper item, presumed to have been placed by Mr. Nottingham, thanked the Eastville and Cape Charles fire companies for saving his home "from destruction by fire (Figure 14)."⁵⁹ No additional articles appear concerning the fire and survey has not identified evidence of a fire at the present house from this period.



Figure 14. *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 90, January 4, 1936

In 1938, W. Dixon Nottingham died at his home, Eyreville, and was buried in Cape Charles Cemetery. Nottingham's obituary listed, Guy L. Webster, Eyreville's next owner, as a pallbearer at the funeral.⁶⁰

Guy L. Webster (1885-1976) came to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in the early 1920s as president and founder of the G.L. Webster Canning Company, located in Cheriton. Previously, Webster worked with his father, Winfield Webster, in the packing industry in Dorchester County, Maryland, where their company packed fruits and vegetables for market. The Cheriton factory, which stood on the east side of the main highway (U.S. Route 13) and the railroad, quickly grew into one of the most successful canning plants in the United States.

In 1937, W.D. Nottingham and his wife, Frances Elizabeth, placed Eyreville and two parcels they owned on Savages Neck into a deed of trust with Benjamin W. Mears as trustee. When the Nottinghams defaulted on their payments, the property was sold at public auction. Louis H. Dorkin, an attorney in Kings County, New York, placed the high bid (\$48,000) for the property. Upon his purchase, he asked Mears to convey the property to Eyreville Farms, Inc., a Virginia corporation headed by Guy L. Webster. It may have been that Dorkin was a company attorney acting on Webster's behalf when he purchased the property. Eyreville Farms, also purchased several adjacent parcels of land formerly associated with the 1,000 farm.⁶¹ Webster's

⁵⁹ "Home Destroyed by Fire Sunday," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 43, Number 31, April 12, 1930; "A Card of Thanks," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 90, January 4, 1936.

⁶⁰ "Elizabeth Nottingham Kelly," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 38, July 16, 1932; "William Dixon Nottingham," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 241, November 26, 1938.

⁶¹ "Eyreville Sold for \$79,021.91," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 418, April 25, 1942. For information on parcels Webster purchased, see NCDB 176:101 (763.87 acres), NCDB 103:383 ("Hyslop Farm" the northeast

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purchase of the Eyreville house and property in 1942 resulted in a renovation of the house and the addition of dependencies and outbuildings on the property.

The lines of the New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk Railroad (NYP&NRR) arrived on the Eastern Shore in the 1880s. Spearheaded by William L. Scott, a politician and coal and shipping magnate of Erie, PA, the railroad provided local farmers and producers with a rail link to large markets in the north. As the southern terminus of the line, Cape Charles quickly grew into a significant local commercial center. Residences also began to flourish in the town and Tazewell Street was one of the first to be completed. In May 1921, Guy Webster, his first wife, the former Carrie S. Bayly (1887-1958), moved to the house at 205 Tazewell Street. The couple continued to reside in town until the early 1940s, when they moved to Eyreville.

During Webster's ownership, the Eyreville house was enlarged and refurbished. In the main house, Webster added an elevator, which stands at the southeast corner of the center hall. He also filled in the center section of the house with a two-story addition, which included storage areas and bathrooms. At the back (north end) of the house, Webster added a new kitchen wing and a corridor (or enclosed passage) that connected to a series of dependencies containing a ballroom/party room, plant room, and a pool house. The pool house and an elevator were added for the convenience of Carrie Webster, who suffered from polio.⁶² Buildings added to the Eyreville property at this time include the secondary dwelling, the oyster house, the doll house (a building used for display of Jane Webster's doll collection), the garage, garden, and sheds. The quality of the architecture of these additions, especially the oyster house and the enclosed passage and attached spaces, suggest the involvement of an architect and perhaps the influence of the restorations that were being completed at Colonial Williamsburg about this time. The use of the enclosed passage, referred to by others as a "curtain," is seen on other historic Eastern Shore houses in the area and shows a knowledge of historical regional forms.

A garden is mentioned in the 1797 conveyance of the Eyreville property from Nancy Kendall to William Eyre, but may have referred to a vegetable garden. It is assumed that a pleasure garden graced the Eyreville property during the tenure of the Eyre family. Carrie Webster died in 1958, in the 1960s, Guy Webster married Jane Hunter Ferguson (1907-1991). Jane Webster was actively involved with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Garden Club and the Eyreville house and garden were on the annual Historic Garden Tour in 1969. She also made notable financial contributions to the garden club. In the late 1960s, Harvey Moore was superintendent of Webster's Eyreville farm operations, which included a wildfowl sanctuary.⁶³

For most of the time he owned Eyreville, Webster's Eyreville Farms, Inc., remained the legal, corporate owner. In 1969, he transferred the western portion of the farm (including the house site) to himself and his second wife Jane; in 1973, he conveyed two additional tracts associated with the farm from the corporation to his personal ownership.⁶⁴ Webster died in 1976 and was buried in Cambridge, Maryland, near his mother, father, siblings, and first wife, Carrie. His second wife, Jane, remained at Eyreville a few more years; in 1978, she held an auction of the extensive antique furnishings, art, and other collectibles from the Eyreville house (see Additional Documentation 5). In 1979, Mrs. Webster sold the Eyreville property to Eyreville Acres, a Virginia partnership, which then sold the property in 1985 to the Buyrn Farm Association, headed by Oswald S. Buyrn (1914-2001).⁶⁵ Buyrn, retired vice president and treasurer of Buyrn, Old, and Eaton

portion of farm purchased from the Warrens and Dixons), and NCDB 104:174 (a two acre parcel purchased from Whitehead).

⁶² Eyre Baldwin, Personal Communication, January 12, 2023.

⁶³ "Mystery Death of Wildfowl Probed by Wildlife Officials," *Suffolk News-Herald*, Volume 46, Number 31, February 5, 1968:1.

⁶⁴ NCDB 164:615; 176:101.

⁶⁵ NCDB 196:268, NCDB 196:270, NCDB217:440, NCDB 217:443.

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Wholesale Hardware in Princess Anne County/City of Virginia Beach, retired to the farm and remained there until his death. His wife, Mary Louis W. Buyrn (married in 1945), also remained at Eyreville until her death in 2017. The Eyreville property remains in agricultural use under the ownership of the Buyrn's three sons, Mason, Grandy, and Roger.

G.L. Webster Canning Company

Webster's arrival in Northampton County coincided with the "Golden Age" of Northampton County agriculture. Around 1900, the production of vegetables and seafood for commercial export began to increase rapidly on the Eastern Shore, advanced by the arrival of the railroad which replaced shipment by vessel as the primary transportation method. Irish and sweet potatoes were the initial cash crops and remained so for decades, although tomatoes also were a prominent crop. One of the first canning factories on the Eastern Shore was John W. Taylor's enterprise in Mappsville (Accomack County), which canned tomatoes. Northampton County canning operations began to emerge as well including the Chandler & Ballard Canning Company and John H. Dulaney & Son at Exmore, Eastern Shore Canning Company at Machipongo, and the Northampton Canning Company at Nassawadox.⁶⁶

The G.L. Webster Canning Company began canning only lima beans and in its first year in operations packed 18,000 cases of the vegetable. The next year, the factory produced 135,000 cases, reaching its peak in 1920 when it canned a million cases of vegetables. This incredible output continued through the late 1930s and grew to include such crops as peas, tomato juice, beets, carrots, pork and beans, snap beans, sweet potatoes, and spinach. The crops were canned as the growing season allowed and generally ran from April through May, then July through mid- November. Between November and April, little canning was done and the factory was prepared for the next season's work. Webster purchased crops from local farmers and grew crops on land he owned or leased, including part of the 60 acres he owned at Cheriton. The factory itself covered approximately 20 acres of that property. By the late 1930s, Webster rented about 60 farms in the county equaling about 6,000 acres in cultivation. In the early years, the cannery provided seed and any special equipment to the farmers and even harvested some of the crops itself, except for tomatoes, which were hand harvested. In 1924, Webster was a driving force in establishing tomatoes as a profitable crop in Northampton County and, in agreement with farmers who were willing to plant the crop, built a \$75,000 tomato cannery at his Cheriton factory (Figure 15).⁶⁷

Webster employed many Eastern Shore residents as managers and administrators at his Cheriton plant, many of whom are identified as such in local obituaries. While the administration was made up of White residents, most of the laborers were African American, including African-American women (see Additional Documentation 6 and 7). Some Black factory workers are known to have lived in tenant dwellings at Eyre Hall, where Webster leased property for cultivation.⁶⁸ Webster also employed migrant laborers who were housed in primitive barracks-like housing encircled by tall barbed-wire fences on the factory grounds (see Additional Documentation 8). Other companies also used such camps, possibly as a way to mitigate any negative feelings in the community towards the workers. Such sub-par housing practices were commonly used by other large canning factories on the Eastern Shore and similar "camps" were used for migrant

⁶⁶Dames & Moore, "Historic Architectural Survey Settlements, Villages, and Towns of Northampton County, Virginia." Submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond. Submitted by Dames & Moore, Bethesda, MD, 1996.:5-15.

⁶⁷ G.L. Webster Company, Inc. and Emory J. Steelman, Record No. 2002, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Richmond, Feb. 20, 1939:2-3; "Cannery is Aid to Northampton Farmers," *Accomack News*, May 16, 1924:Section 2:9; "Virginia Hangs Up Record in Lima Beans," *The Virginia Star*, September 26, 1929; "Canning of Potatoes (sic) Discussed by Farmers," *Accomack News*, November 28, 1924:7.

⁶⁸ Lounsbury, 159-160, 177.

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workers into the late twentieth century.⁶⁹ Many of the seasonal migrants, the majority of whom were Black, were from Florida and other southern states, but in the 1940s, during the labor shortage associated with World War II, Bahamian workers were brought in to keep the cannery operating. During the Great Depression, like many industrial factories, Webster company tokens as a way to pay his workers, which could then be redeemed at Webster's own store or at select local businesses (Figure 16).



Figure 15. 1930 Postcard of Webster's Factory in Cheriton
(Jean Merritt Mihalyka Collection, Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomac, VA
https://eshore.iath.virginia.edu/sites/default/files/phc.espl_mihalyka.cheriton.glwebster_1930.jpg)

⁶⁹ Dames & Moore, 1996:5-18.

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Figure 16. G.L.W. Co. Token (Collection of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society)

The importance of Webster's canning factory to Eastern Shore agriculture is hard to overstate; in 1938, industry experts cited it as "as large or larger than the output from any one plant in the United States" and it also was "the largest corporation in either of the two counties comprising the Eastern Shore of Virginia."⁷⁰

During its height, Webster's factory employed between 400 and 500 workers year round; the personnel ballooned to 1,000 to 1,200 workers during the peak of packing season. The canning company provided a ready market for local produce and encouraged diversification of crops, which made local agriculture profitable (see Additional Documentation 9). After just a few years in operation, the local newspaper touted the cannery's arrival as a major factor in the advancement of agriculture in the county:

As a result of the introduction of the cannery into the agricultural life of the county, there has been a slow but perceptible change in the attitude of the more progressive farmers. They have realized that the cannery, with its demand for a variety of products, has weaned them away from the Irish potato fetish, and with profit. Sooner or later, every farming section which has staked everything on one crop, has found it costly to carry all eggs in one basket.

Each season since the Cheriton plant opened has found a few more farmers following out diversification, even though it may be on a small scale. In every way the cannery management aids the grower as far as economic law allows.⁷¹

By the late 1930s, Webster estimated that his company spent in excess of \$461,000 (equivalent to over \$9 million in 2023) annually in payroll, farm rental, and farm produce; at the same time, Webster's Cheriton

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ "Cannery is Aid to Northampton Farmers."

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plant was estimated for insurance purposes at a value of \$1 million (equivalent of over \$21 million in 2023). In the 1940s, the company was again recognized as a progressive agricultural force on the Eastern Shore:

Distinguished in the farming and canning industries as a leading contributor of new ideas and proper methods of operation, G. L. Webster Company, Inc., Cheriton, is highly valued as a great asset to the progress and prosperity of the area.⁷²

Webster was said to be “deeply interested in the welfare of the county” and, in addition the contributions his cannery made to stabilizing and enhancing the agricultural economy of the county, he was lauded as a “an outstanding civic booster.” In 1945, when a fire caused by a lightning strike destroyed the central building of the Cheriton factory, Webster affirmed his commitment to Northampton County by rebuilding and continuing his canning operations.⁷³ His leading role in local civic and business affairs, including his service as president of the Northampton County Trust Bank (formerly the Farmers’ & Merchants’ Trust Co. of Cape Charles), first president of the Cape Charles Rotary Club (1924-1925), and president of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Packers Association, further solidify Webster’s significance to the local economy at the time he owned and lived at Eyreville.⁷⁴ In 1971, Webster Canning became a subsidiary of Kane-Miller Corporation, a large national food conglomerate headquartered in New York that was a wholesale distributor of fresh, canned and frozen foods. Most of the Webster employees stayed on after the change of ownership. The Kane-Miller Corporation leased over 3,000 acres on the Eastern Shore that “produced asparagus, white potatoes, tomatoes and sweet potatoes for canning.” The plant had 340 employees in the canning season (May-December) and 145 in the off-season; at the time, more work was being done mechanically than in the early years of Webster’s factory. Even so, in 1973, the Cheriton plant remained the largest canning factory on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.⁷⁵ The plant closed in 1988, but several of the factory buildings remain standing on the east side of the former railroad tracks just outside of the Cheriton town limits on Webster Road.⁷⁶

⁷² “Webster Company Highly Valued,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, July 4, 1942.

⁷³ “Million-Dollar Fire Destroys Va. Food Plant,” *Washington Post*, July 28, 1945:5. Another fire in 1959, also estimated at \$1 million in damages, occurred in November just before the end of canning season. Once again, the factory was repaired.

⁷⁴ “Parade of Progress: Who’s Who in Northampton County: G.L. Webster Co. Helps Stabilize Produce Industry,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, August 8, 1941; “Items About Banks, Trust Companies, &C,” *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, June 5, 1937, Vol. 144, No. 3754:3373; Paul Strong (current treasurer, Cape Charles Rotary Club), personal communication, electronic message, April 26, 2023. Mr. Strong noted that at the time Webster was president of the Rotary Club, the members “met on the Pennsylvania R.R. Steamer when it was docked during the noon hour at the ferry boat terminal in Cape Charles.”

⁷⁵ “Bicycling Executive Supervises Changes at Eastern Shore Plant,” *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 26, 1973:44.

⁷⁶ The Cheriton Planning Commission, in cooperation with the Cheriton Town Council, *Town of Cheriton, Virginia Comprehensive Plan*. Update to original prepared by Accomack-Northampton Planning District, 1999, 2010:10. Accessed on March 20, 2023 on the Town of Cheriton website at: <http://townofcheriton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Comp-Plan-PDF.pdf>. In 1999, Powercat North America, a manufacturer of catamarans, purchased the factory buildings for a production facility, but is presently vacant and owned by a private LLC.

Eyreville
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Newspapers and Periodicals

Accomack News

Commercial and Financial Chronicle

Eastern Shore Herald

The Farmers Register

Richmond Times-Dispatch

The Virginia Star

Washington Post

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 # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Eyreville
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR #065-5126/44NH0507

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 6.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.32055 | Longitude: -75.98352 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.32091 | Longitude: -75.98154 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.32063 | Longitude: -75.98162 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.32071 | Longitude: -75.98114 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.32108 | Longitude: -75.98128 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.32123 | Longitude: -75.98163 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.32015 | Longitude: -75.98012 |
| 8. Latitude: 37.31967 | Longitude: -75.98223 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass approximately 6.5 acres of the 17-acre Tax Parcel No. 76-A-1 as recorded by the Northampton County Commissioner of the Revenue Real Estate Assessment. The nominated property occupies most of the southern portion of the parcel and is delineated on the attached Tax Parcel Map, which was obtained from the

Eyreville
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
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Northampton County, VA, Geographic Information System mapping website on April 19, 2023. The maps and layers on the county's website are updated quarterly.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic property boundary encompasses about 6.5 acres of Tax Parcel No. 76-A-1 and encompasses the area containing the extant historic dwelling and outbuildings, its immediate historic setting, and recorded archaeological site. All known associated historic resources have been included within the historic boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian; Michael Clem, VDHR Eastern Regional Archaeologist, Michael B. Barber, PhD, VDHR State Archaeologist; Contributions by Jenean Hall, Historical Researcher; Carl R. Lounsbury, PhD, Architectural Historian
organization: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian
street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225
e-mail dmcclane1@verizon.net
telephone: 804/233-3890 date: April 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Eyreville
City or Vicinity: Cape Charles
County: Northampton State: VA
Photographer: Debra A. McClane; DHR Staff (Michael Clem, Marc C. Wagner, Austin Walker)
Date Photographed: 2016; 2018/2019

Eyreville

Name of Property

Northampton County, VA

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Photo 1 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0001
Looking north at front (south) elevation (Period III house) |
| Photo 2 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0002
Looking northwest at east side elevation |
| Photo 3 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0003
Looking southwest at Period I house, porch addition, and rear kitchen addition |
| Photo 4 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0004
Looking south at rear elevation |
| Photo 5 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0005
Looking northeast at west side elevation (Period I house) |
| Photo 6 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0006
Looking east at front porch |
| Photo 7 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0007
Detail of windows, south elevation |
| Photo 8 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0008
Detail of dated brick on east elevation of porch addition |
| Photo 9 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0009
Looking south at adjoined dependencies and rear of house |
| Photo 10 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0010
Exterior, Ballroom, looking west |
| Photo 11 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0011
Exterior, brick passage |
| Photo 12 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0012
Exterior Pool house, looking east |
| Photo 13 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0013
Interior, first floor entrance hall, looking north (Period III house) |
| Photo 14 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0014
Interior, first floor entrance hall, looking south (Period III house) |
| Photo 15 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0015
Interior, first floor east room, looking southwest (Period III house) |
| Photo 16 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0016
Interior, first floor east room, mantel (Period III house) |
| Photo 17 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0017
Interior, first floor west room, looking northwest (Period III house) |
| Photo 18 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0018
Interior, first floor west room, mantel (Period III house) |
| Photo 19 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0019
Interior, second floor, center hall (Period III house) |
| Photo 20 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0020
Interior, second floor, west room, looking northwest (Period III house) |
| Photo 21 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0021
Interior, first floor, kitchen, looking southeast (Period I house) |
| Photo 22 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0022
Interior, first floor, rear east room, looking south (Period I house) |
| Photo 23 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0023
Interior, stair hall, second floor landing (Period II house) |

Eyreville

Northampton County, VA
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Name of Property

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Photo 24 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0024
Interior, second floor, east room, mantel (Period I house) |
| Photo 25 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0025
Interior, second floor, west room, looking northwest (Period I house) |
| Photo 26 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0026
Interior, second floor, west room, mantel (Period I house) |
| Photo 27 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0027
Interior, basement, looking west (Period III house) |
| Photo 28 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0028
Interior, brick passage, looking east (Period IV house) |
| Photo 29 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0029
Oyster house, looking west |
| Photo 30 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0030
Oyster house, looking south |
| Photo 31 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0031
Oyster house, interior, cooking grate |
| Photo 32 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0032
Secondary dwelling, looking northeast |
| Photo 33 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0033
Doll house, looking northwest |
| Photo 34 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0034
Gazebo and garden, looking east |
| Photo 35 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0035
Aerial view of archaeological site |
| Photo 36 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0036
Aerial view of bulkhead entrance archaeological feature |
| Photo 37 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0037
Aerial view of archaeological feature, Dutch bricks |
| Photo 38 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0038
Aerial view of property looking west towards Chesapeake Bay |

Figures

Figure 1. Aerial view of Eyreville Property Showing Main Dwelling and Associated Outbuildings within Wooded Yard, Looking Southeast. Eyre Hall lies on the south (right) side of Eyreville Creek and the long driveway (Eyreville Drive) near the center ground extends east towards U.S. Route 13. (DHR, 2019)

Eyreville

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Additional Documentation

17. Eyreville Floorplan Indicating Identified Periods of Construction.
2. Eyreville, Aerial View, 2018.
3. Eyreville Doll House, Looking Northeast, April 1960.
4. Eyreville Doll House, Interior, April 1960.
5. Catalogue Cover for Auction of "The Collection of Mrs. Jane Webster at Eyreville Plantation" (1978).
6. Migratory agricultural workers grading cabbages at the Webster Canning Company, Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940.
7. Entrance to Webster Canning Company at Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940.
8. Barbed wire-enclosed barracks for migratory labors at Webster Canning Company, Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940.
9. "Eastern Shore of Virginia - Most Fertile Trucking Area in the United States," Advertising Poster for G.L. Webster Canning Co., Cheriton, VA (ca. 1920-1939).
10. Plat of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of W.D. Nottingham, 1934.
11. Plat of the Yard of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of Guy L. Webster, 1942.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

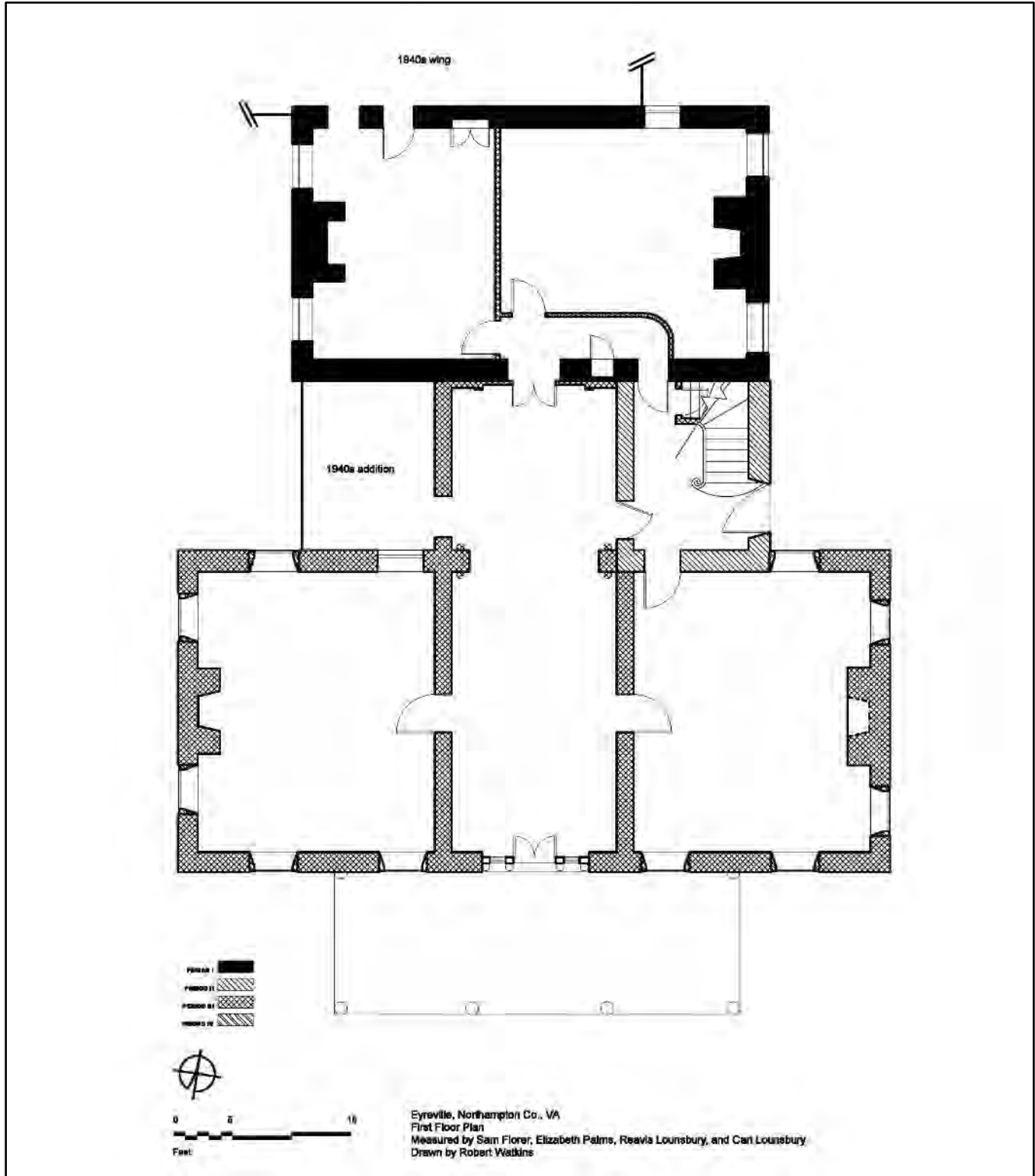
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Eyreville
Name of Property
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 1



1. Eyreville Floorplan Indicating Identified Periods of Construction. Courtesy Carl Lounsbury.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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2. Eyreville, Aerial View, 2018. North is to the top of the photograph. Active archaeological investigation seen at left (west). Courtesy DHR.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Eyreville

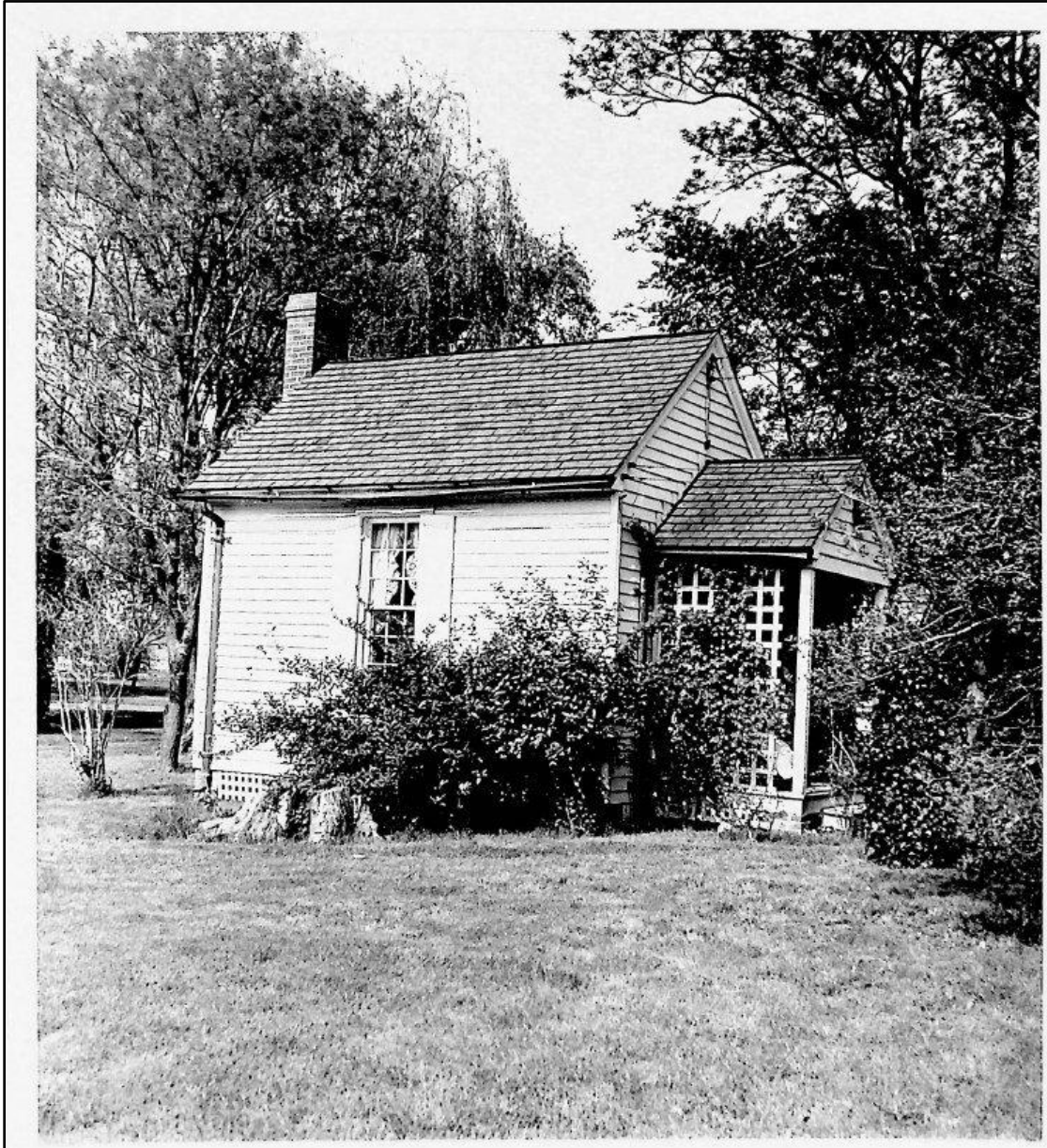
Name of Property

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County and State

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3. Eyreville Doll House, Looking Northeast, April 1960. John Robertson, photographer. In the "Robertson Collection," Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society, Onancock, VA.

<https://shorehistory.pastperfectonline.com/media/C563C145-5451-42E4-8625-330434888569>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Eyreville

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4. Eyreville Doll House, Interior, April 1960. John Robertson, photographer.

In the "Robertson Collection," Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society, Onancock, VA.

<https://shorehistory.pastperfectonline.com/media/17E265EB-6B38-48C6-8B83-898680901550>

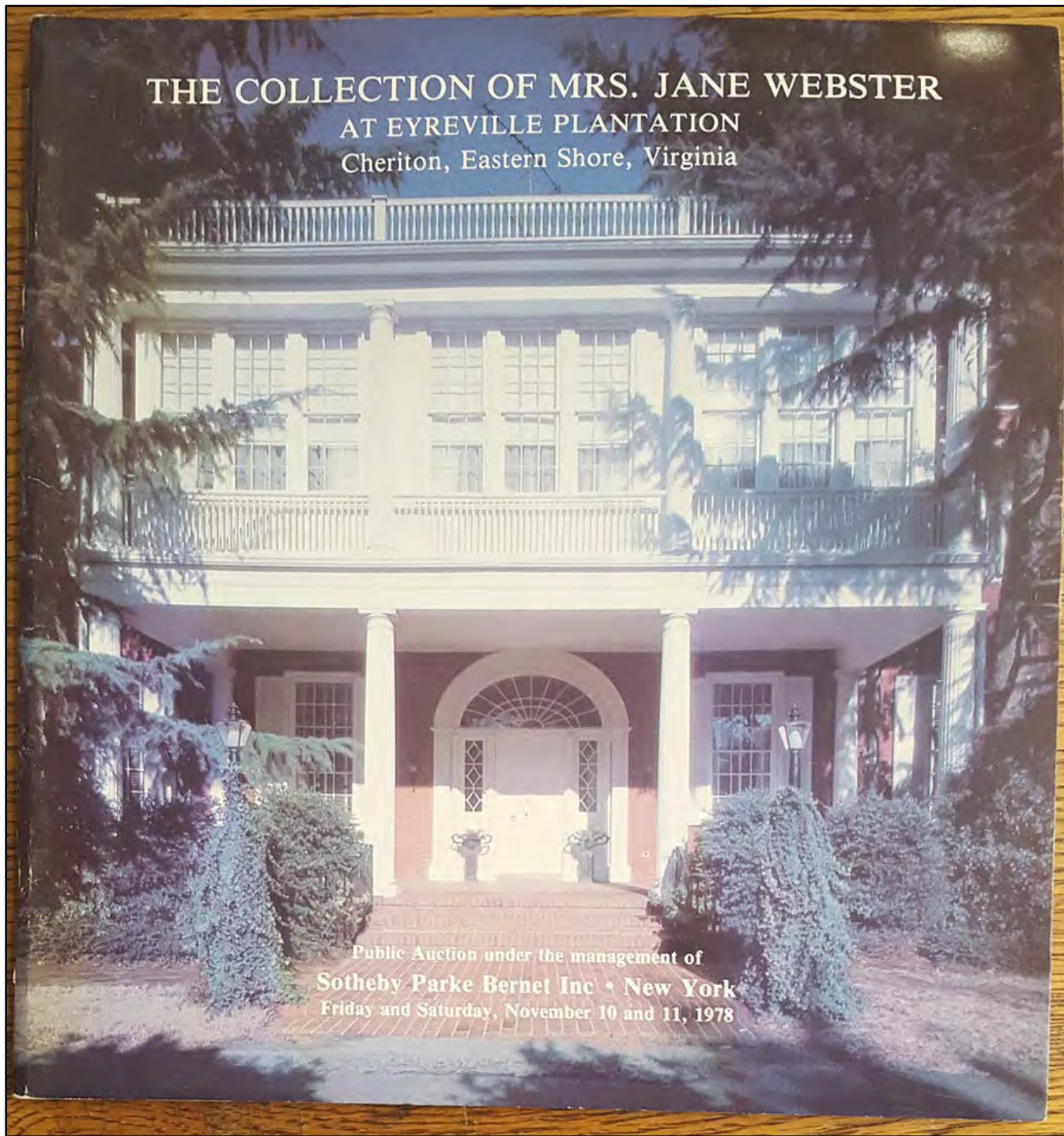
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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5. Catalogue Cover for Auction of "The Collection of Mrs. Jane Webster at Eyreville Plantation" (1978).
Courtesy DHR.

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6. Migratory agricultural workers grading cabbages at the Webster Canning Company, Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940. Jack Delano, photographer. From the Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress). <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017747763/>

United States Department of the Interior
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7. Entrance to Webster Canning Company at Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940. Jack Delano, photographer. From the Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress).

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017747889/>

United States Department of the Interior
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8. Barbed wire-enclosed barracks for migratory laborers at Webster Canning Company, Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940. Jack Delano, photographer. From the Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress). <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017747906/>

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9. "Eastern Shore of Virginia - Most Fertile Trucking Area in the United States," Advertising Poster for G.L. Webster Canning Co., Cheriton, VA (ca. 1920-1939). P.J. Mode collection of persuasive cartography, #8548. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library. Accessed on Cornell University Digital Library website: <https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:19343660>

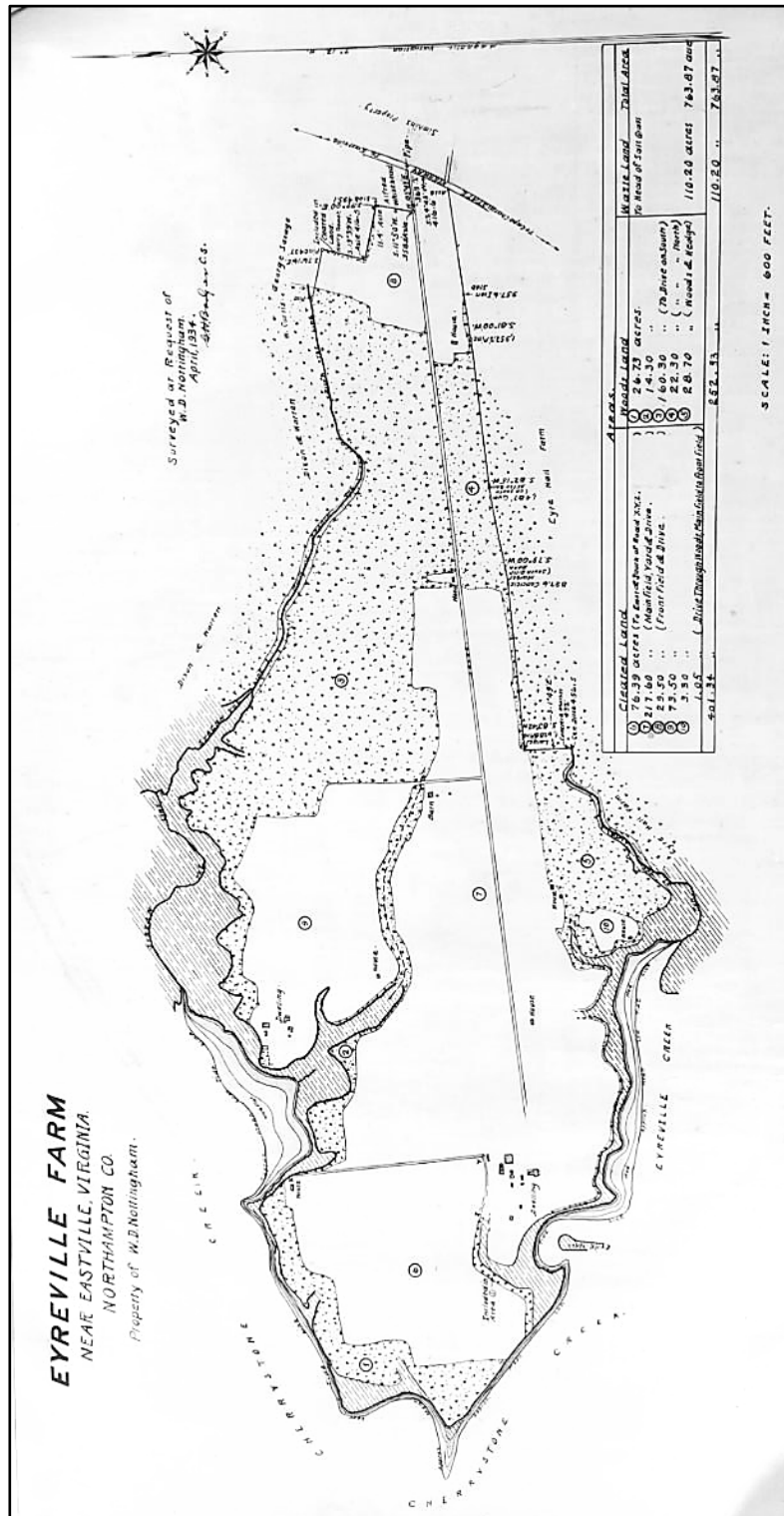
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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10. Plat of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of W.D. Nottingham, 1934. Northampton County Plat Book, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Eastville, VA.

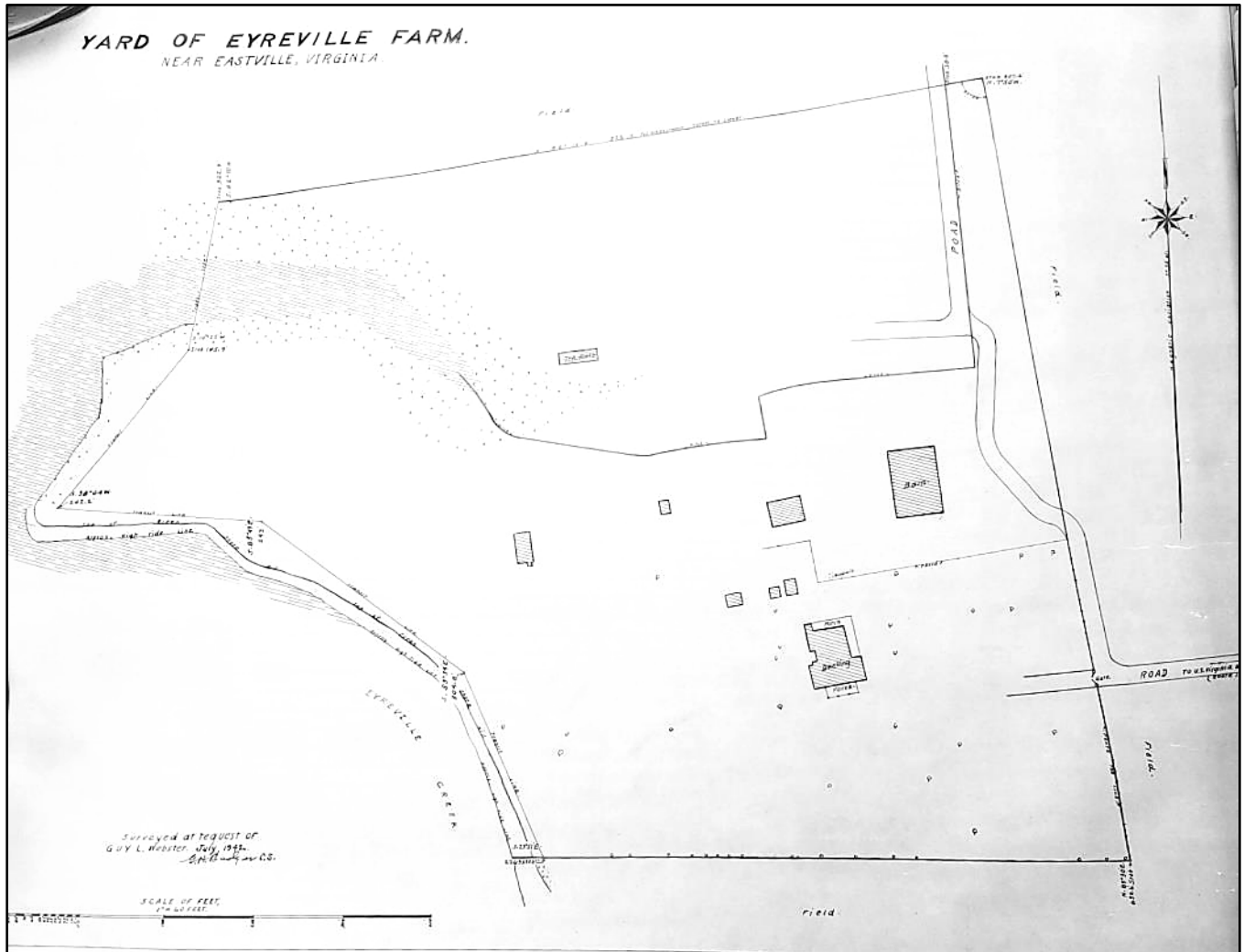
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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11. Plat of the Yard of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of Guy L. Webster, 1942. Showing Main dwelling and surrounding outbuildings prior to Webster-era additions. Northampton County Plat Book, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Eastville, VA.



Legend

- Architecture Resources
- Architecture Labels
- Individual Historic District Properties
- DHR Easements
- County Boundaries

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

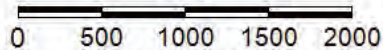
**Eyreville
Northampton County, VA
DHR No. 065-5126**



Historic Boundary



Feet



1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title: Eyreville, 065-5126, Northampton County, VA

Date: 4/20/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Legend

LOCATION MAP

Eyreville

Northampton County, VA

DHR No. 065-5126

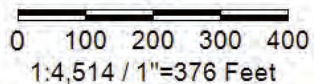
Historic Boundary

Lat. Lon.

1.	37.32055	-75.98352
2.	37.32091	-75.98154
3.	37.32063	-75.98162
4.	37.32071	-75.98114
5.	37.32108	-75.98128
6.	37.32123	-75.98063
7.	37.32015	-75.98012
8.	37.31967	-75.98223



Feet



Title: Eyreville, 065-5126, Northampton County, VA

Date: 4/20/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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Sketch Site Plan

Resource Name: Eyreville

VDHR #065-5126

Northampton

County, Virginia

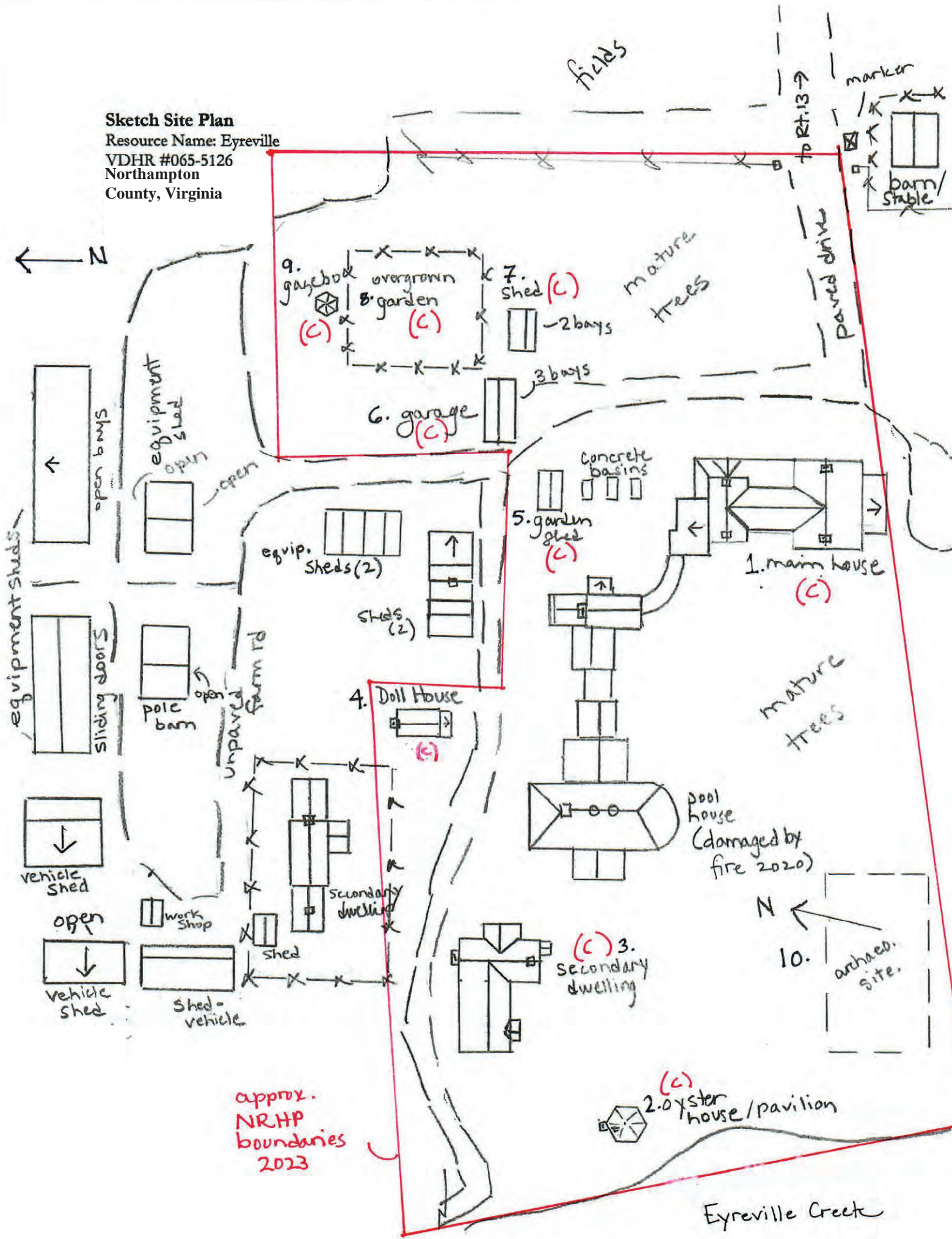


Photo Locations

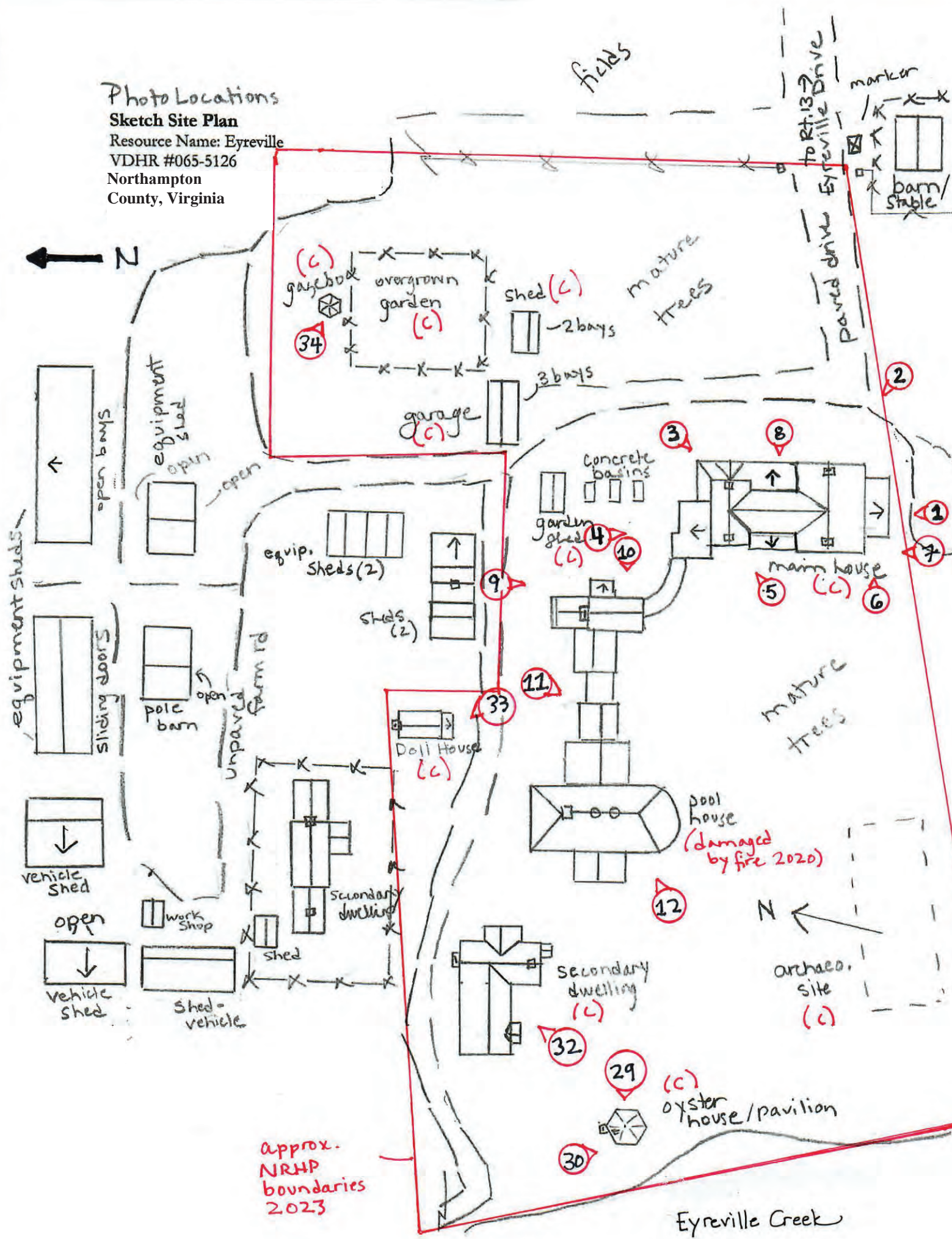
Sketch Site Plan

Resource Name: Eyreville

VDHR #065-5126

Northampton

County, Virginia



Northampton County, Virginia

Legend

- Subject Tax Parcel
- Boundaries of Nominated Property
- Parcels

Tax Parcel Map
Eyreville
Northampton County, VA
DHR No. 065-5126

 Historic Boundary



Map Printed from Northampton
<https://parcelviewer.geodecisions.com/Northampton/>



Feet
0 100 200 300 400
1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

Title: Eyreville, 065-5126, Northampton County, VA

Date: 4/19/2023

DISCLAIMER: This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. The information displayed is a compilation of records, information, and data obtained from various sources, and Northampton County is not responsible for its accuracy or how current it may be.













































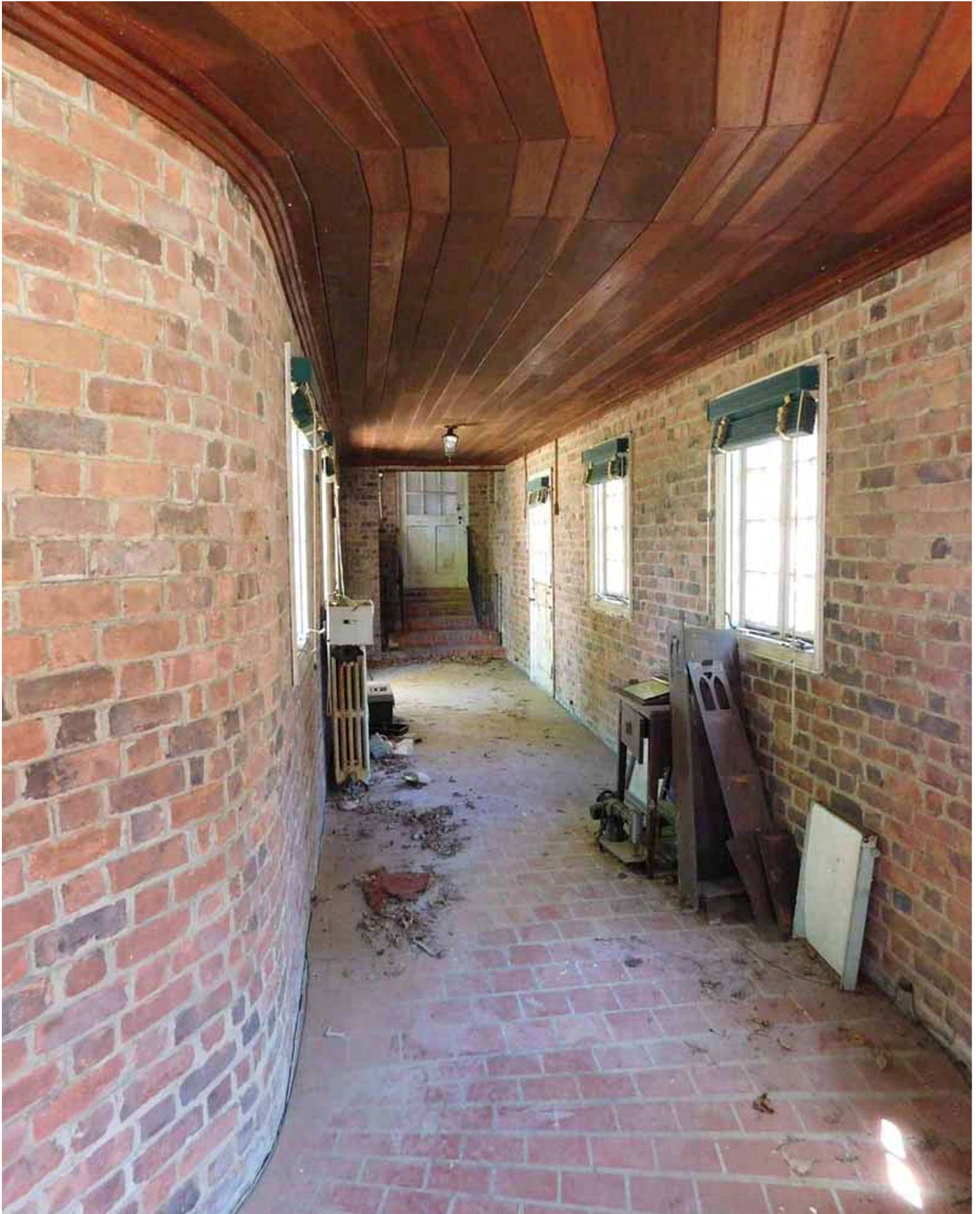


























EYREVILLE
44 NH0607
PLAN VIEW
BULKHEAD
ENTRANCE
9 26 18



EYREVILLE
44 NH0507
N500 W660
FEATURE 2-18B
10-3-18



