

## Script for James City County Power Point

### Slide 2: James City County

James City County occupies the middle portion of the peninsula that extends from the City of Richmond south and east to Hampton and Newport News. The County is bounded on its southern side by the James Rive and on the northern side by York County and the York River. Both the James and York Rivers influenced the pattern of settlement and development. Most of the modern development has taken place in the central and southern portions of the County, communities such as Toano, Norge, Diascund, Grove, Jamestown, and Lightfoot sprung up around the County. The 20th century marked a major increase in tourism and growth with the marketing of Colonial Williamsburg and development of Busch Gardens theme park.

### Slide 3: Map of James City County dating to 1859

### Slide 4: Native Americans to 1607

Human occupation of the Tidewater region extends more than ten thousand years ago. The first Native Americans hunted, farmed, and traded with other tribes within the area. In 1607 the Colony of Jamestown was established. It would be the Powhatan Tribe that would greet the settlers. As more and more Europeans came to the new land there was increased conflict and open hostility between the Native Americans and the Europeans. As would be expected, there are no above-ground physical remains from this early period.

### Slide 5: European Settlement to Society 1607-1750

The years 1607 to 1750 was a period marked by the exploration of the Colonies and a rapid expansion westward. Colonists became to cultivate tobacco and other food crops as the desire for new plantations and farmsteads increased. As time progressed, a number of laws were passed in order to regulate commerce, create boundaries, and establish government. Some of the laws that were passed included the Navigation Act and Town Act of 1680. The passing of this laws and regulations led to the eventual deterioration of relations between colonists, Native Americans, and the English Crown. In 1699 Williamsburg becomes the capital of Virginia.

### Slide 6: Architecture 1607-1750

There are almost no surviving buildings which predate 1750 most have either been demolished or have deteriorated significantly. Early architecture of this area consisted of traditional or vernacular patterns brought over from Europe. Early dwellings were small, frame, one-room, open-plan structures or post-hole houses built of wood. Beginning in 1660s larger houses were constructed, many of which were built of brick. The hall-parlor plan paved the way for the Georgian style (symmetrical layout with classical detailing).

Slide 7:

The photograph on the left is of the Jamestown National Historic Site. The church tower/ ruins dates to around 1600 and is located on Jamestown Island.

The photograph on the right is of the Hickory Neck Church. Portions of this one-story church have original materials which date from 1733-1738.

Slide 8:

Carters Grove was begun in 1750 and is one of the best documented colonial mansions in the region. It is an excellent example of an early Georgian colonial house. However, in 1927 the exterior was radically altered and the house was enlarged to give it a more grandiose appearance (wings were added on either side of the main block).

Slide 9: Colony to Nation 1750-1789

From 1750 to 1789 there was a gradual shift from cultivating tobacco to growing wheat, grain, and corn all of which required less labor and were easier to manage. Grist mills, taverns, roads, and small villages now filled the landscape. In 1775 the Revolutionary War began and James City County became a battleground for independence. During the war the shipyard was burned and there were a number of battles fought between the British and the colonists. Following the war, the Capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond, drastically affecting the economy, political influence, and overall population of James City County.

Slide 10: Architecture 1750-1789

This time period was classified by large plantation houses, like Carters Grove, which signified someone's accumulation of wealth. The typical type of private or public resource was either one or two stories, a braced-frame structure set on a brick foundation. Some homes were constructed of brick however, most were clad with weatherboard siding. Additionally, many structures were constructed using the post-in-the-ground method with a side passage floor plan. Most rooms were used for combination of purposes such as service work, cooking, crafts and family space.

Slide 11:

The photograph on the left is of Windsor Castle. Windsor Castle is one of a few remaining farmsteads in the County. Constructed circa 1760, it originally was a side-passage building and later was expanded upon in the 19th century with additions on the west and north elevations and the change to a central passage plan.

The photograph on the right is of Oakland. This is a Colonial house built circa 1780. It originally featured a side passage floor plan however today. the house is arranged as a center-hall plan.

#### Slide 12: Early National Period 1789-1830

By 1790, James City County was one of the smallest counties in Virginia. The chief crops being grown were corn, wheat, and potatoes. Over time soil exhaustion prompted farmers to institute a diversified crops rotation and a three-crop system that rotated grains and grasses over and over again for generations. During the early 1800's the great slavery debate was heating up involving issues such as gradual emancipation, repatriation, and a variety of slave revolts.

#### Slide 13: Architecture 1789-1830

This period was signified by the introduction of hallways in order to create floor plans organized around a central or side passage plan. Prior to this advent, most of the rooms had been used for a combination of purposes, providing littler private space. Additionally, separate buildings, such as kitchens, were constructed at the rear of the main dwelling which indicated a hierarchy of space. The most common type of house during this period was constructed of either frame or brick, and was one-and-one-half story (one-story with loft and/or dormers). If there were any additions on the main house they were often added in the form of additional rooms with a lean-to roof. The most common or popular home was the Colonial, Georgian, and Early Republic style.

#### Slide 14:

The photograph on the left is of La Grange. It was built in 1790, originally this was 1.5 story I-house. However, later the 19th century roofline was raised in order to make it two stories. The house was dismantled in 1988.

The photograph on the right is of Breezeland. Breezeland was constructed circa 1795, this Colonial house has an English basement, steep hipped roof, shouldered chimneys, and other features which give it the impression of a plantation "Big House" It was demolished in 2005.

#### Slide 15: Antebellum Period/Civil War 1830-1865

There was an increase in the general population and an unforeseen building boom helped to improve small villages and towns. Additionally, improved farming techniques allowed for increased productivity. A systematic network of transportation options was instituted. Residents could now use canals, turnpikes, railroads, and riverboats to get from one place to another. On another front, the continued slavery debate, tariffs, court decisions, and politics created a rift between the Northern and Southern states which eventually prompted a Civil War which raged from 1861-1865. Major battles were fought in and around the County particularly in Yorktown and Williamsburg.

#### Slide 16: Architecture 1830-1865

Most of the extant dwellings tend to have a center entrance which in most cases led into a central hall. Also most of the dwellings had an upper floor and some form of service wing on the rear side of the dwelling. Many of the houses from this period here Plantation homes oriented around colonial settlement patterns.

#### Slide 17:

The photograph in the upper left corner is of the Olive Branch Christian Church. This is an Ecclesiastical building constructed circa 1835. It is one of the oldest standing churches in the County.

The photograph in the upper right corner is of the Martin House. Built in 1850, this house is located in the Toano Historic District.

The photograph on the bottom is of Riverview. This Colonial style house was built in 1850.

#### Slide 18: Reconstruction 1865-1917

James City County's recovery from the devastation of the Civil War was not immediate. The county was not in a good position after the end of the war and for many the years it was a period of survival. Over time however, the County began to improve economically. One of the largest economic benefits came in 1882 when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad extended rail service into County. Additionally, steamships helped to improve the economy of James City County in that they could be used to transport farm produce to urban markets. In 1884, Williamsburg becomes an independent city from James City County and the African-American community of Grove was created.

#### Slide 19: Architecture 1865-1917

Poverty and the cost of Reconstruction resulted in the deterioration of older houses and plantations as well as a mass exodus of young people from the County. This period saw a broader diversity of housing styles such as Mail-order types, Colonial Revival four-square type, either one or two stories, and also the vernacular single and two story gabled styles, sometimes with added wings. The National style house with its side gable roof and extended wing was also popular and there was the rise of Queen Anne style house whose architectural features included cross-gable plans with projecting bay windows.

#### Slide 20:

The photograph on the left is of the house located at 7858 Richmond Road. This is a National style home built in 1885 and located in the Toano Historic District.

The photograph on the right is of the house located at 4586 Croaker Landing Road. This is an example of a four-square National style house built circa 1890.

Slide 21:

All of these resources are all good examples of Queen Anne style resources.

The photograph in the upper left corner is of the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church. It is located in the Toano Historic District and was built in 1884.

The photograph in the upper right corner is of a house located on Farmville Road-This large Queen Anne house was built in 1890 and is located in the Norge Historic District. The photograph on the bottom is of a house located at 7849 Church Street. This Queen Anne house was built in 1900 in the Toano Historic District. It is one of the most architecturally attractive homes in the historic district.

Slide 22: Modern 1917-1950

During this period, the communities of Toano and Norge were reaching their peak with the construction of more brick commercial buildings. Williamsburg was restored and in doing so opened its doors to massive tourism initiatives. This was the beginning of historical tourism for the region. Urbanization led to a decline in working farms, while new industries and manufacturing, such as fish processing, paper mills, lumbar, and steam expanded and flourished.

Slide 23: Architecture 1917-1950

During this period, frame one-story brick commercial buildings were popular. Most commercial buildings had a parapet on a gable style front. Bungalows and Craftsman style homes were very popular. These homes generally were wither one-and-one-half or two-stories, had a low pitched side-or-front gabled roof, exposed rafter feet, and tapered porch piers.

Slide 24:

All of these photographs are of commercial type structures representing varying architectural features located in the Toano Historic District.

The photograph in the upper left corner is of the Old Bank Building. Built in 1903, this Italian Renaissance building is one of 3 early brick structures that make up the core of the old Toano business district.

The photograph in the upper right corner is of The Sporting Hors. This Queen Anne style commercial building was constructed in 1905.

The photograph in the bottom left corner is the Gymnasium which was built in 1920, in the Colonial Revival style and currently home to the Womans Club.

The photograph in the bottom right corner is of the Masonic Lodge. The lodge was built in 1930 in the Colonial Revival style and is the youngest of the three buildings within the old core Toano Historic District.

Slide 25:

The photograph in the upper left corner is of the house located at 7787 Richmond Road. This furniture store was built in 1920 in the Prairie School style. It is unique because of its attached garage with a cupola

The photograph in the upper right corner is of the house located at 136 Chesapeake Avenue. It was built in 1910 in the Italian Renaissance style

The photograph on the bottom is of the house located at 7840 Richmond Road. This small Queen Anne home was built in 1915.

All of the above resources are located in the Toano Historic District.

Slide 26:

Both of these houses are good examples of Colonial Revival homes found in Toano Historic District

The photograph on the left is of the Parsonage. It was built in 1928.

The photograph on the right is of the house located at 102 Chesapeake Ave which was built in 1935.

Slide 27:

These two resources represent the Bungalow/Craftsman style homes that were very popular during the twentieth century in Toano

The photograph on the left is of the house located at 110 School Lane. Built in 1910, this is one of the oldest homes on School Lane.

The photograph on the right is of the house located at 122 School Lane. Built in 1925, this is an excellent example of a Flemish Bond brick bungalow.

Slide 28: Survey and Documentation Priorities

Are to continue to survey and document historic properties within city limits, to develop a comprehensive cultural resources management plan that integrates archeology, the built environment, historic landscapes, and other cultural/historical elements. To evaluate and nominate properties and districts for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To integrate other cultural resource studies into planning efforts, including archeological investigations, oral histories.

## Slide 29: Preservation Planning Priorities

The following are preservation planning priorities. The Office of Planning should consider effects to historic resources in reviewing subdivision applications. Historic resources GIS layers should be regularly updated. Preservation planner should promote adaptive re-use of historic buildings when feasible. They should also promote the use and applicability of state and federal tax credits for rehabilitation of significant historic properties. There should be an integration of historic preservation plans within city or county comprehensive planning. Finally, there should be the evaluation of the feasibility and public support of historic preservation ordinances.