

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: Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex

Other names/site number: DHR # 046-0005

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: 17140 Monument Circle

City or town: Smithfield State: VA County: Isle of Wight

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>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>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1
(The previously listed property is Boykin's Tavern, NRHP 1974)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/tavern

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

GOVERNMENT/government office

LANDSCAPE/street object

RECREATION/ AND CULTURE/monument/marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office

LANDSCAPE/street object

RECREATION/ AND CULTURE/monument/marker, museum

OTHER/maintenance shed

VACANT/not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

LATE-19TH & EARLY-20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Colonial Revival; Neoclassical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD/weatherboard; METAL/tin; ASHALT/shingle

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

The Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex is centrally located within Isle of Wight County, and is approximately seven (7) miles southwest of Smithfield. The historic district encompasses 3.66 acres of land with a total of nine (9) resources. The Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex (“Courthouse Complex”) has its beginnings in the mid-18th century with the initial construction of Boykin’s Tavern (NRHP 1974) ca. 1760. Resources within the district preserve the quintessential character of rural Virginia courthouse complexes. In addition to the civic resources, Boykin’s Tavern is a frame and brick building indicative of early residences that also served as a tavern for court officials and county residents on court days. The long history of the dwelling and its multiple building campaigns is reflected in its present form, which is characterized by a double-pile massing with central hall, a 19th-century gambrel-roofed frame rear addition, and an early-20th century Neoclassical Revival-inspired portico addition. The historic government buildings, including additions and remodelings, are brick construction. Architectural styles represented in the district include Colonial, Federal, Neoclassical and Colonial Revival. The Courthouse (1801) and Clerk’s Office (1820) are characterized by modest Federal-style designs, particularly recognized by their form rather than stylistic embellishments. Early- to mid-20th century additions embrace Neoclassical and Colonial Revival stylistic influences, maintaining the historic aesthetic of an Early National Period rural courthouse complex. Landscape design elements, including a brick retaining wall (1937) and a Confederate Monument (1905) with surrounding green space, further the cohesion of a distinct district and contribute to a visually appealing historic setting. Seven (7) of the nine (9) resources within the

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Courthouse Complex contribute to its overall historic integrity and sense of place. The contributing elements range in date from c. 1780 with Major Francis Boykin's purchase of what became Boykin's Tavern, through 1960 when the School Administration Building was erected. All contributing elements, including additions, are indicative of long-serving courthouse grounds from the Early National Period through the mid-20th century.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Isle of Wight Courthouse Complex is located on the west side of Courthouse Highway. The Courthouse Complex was established on a small portion of the Boykin Plantation that was donated to the county by Major Francis Boykin for the purpose of constructing a new courthouse and jail. Today, the courthouse grounds boast an impressive collection of historic resources ranging in date from ca. 1760, with the initial phase of construction of the dwelling that would become Boykin's Tavern, through 1960 and completion of the School Administration Building.

The historic district is bounded to the north by county government buildings, woodlands, and Courthouse Millpond (formerly swamp land). To the east are additional County-owned buildings constructed between the 1980s and 2010. Courthouse Highway forms the southeast boundary, followed by additional government buildings and the Isle of Wight Christian Church, constructed in 1891. Land bordering the Courthouse Complex to the west is occupied by Courthouse Millpond. The latter is associated with the former saw- and gristmills that were in operation as early as 1730 (Isle of Wight County Deed Book 4:6.).

Overview of Historic District

At the time of its construction in 1801, the courthouse was surrounded by acres of agricultural fields and was sited adjacent to the residence of Major Francis Boykin. The residence (Resource 1 as shown on attached Sketch Map) additionally served as a tavern for travelers along a principal trading route (present-day Courthouse Highway). Despite recent expansions of county government office buildings to the north-northeast, the present complex survives within its rural historic setting. The district is a cohesive collection of resources and landscaping elements distinct from later government expansions.

The courthouse (Resource 2) historically served as the focal point of the courthouse grounds. The 1820 Clerk's Office is sited perpendicular to the courthouse, suggesting a deliberate attempt to create a cohesive civic campus, or courthouse green. Set apart from the civic buildings to the west is Boykin's Tavern (Resource 1). The dwelling/tavern and courthouse share a similar setback from the highway. The Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex is accessed by a u-shaped drive, Monument Circle, leading from the west side of Courthouse Highway. Monument Circle surrounds an open grassed field that encloses a Confederate Monument (Resource 5), erected in 1905. The monument is aligned with the original court building, creating cohesion in

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landscape design and a focal point upon entry to the historic grounds (Photograph 45). Monument Drive and what was historically considered the courthouse green, are separated by a row of parking spaces, lined by a brick landscaping wall constructed in 1937 (Resource 4, Photograph 44). A wide, approximate 100-foot long brick path extends from Monument Drive to the historic courthouse. A 1957 marker (Resource 6) is centered in the path (Photograph 1). Erected in 1984 west of the marker and at the end of a short brick path (Photograph 37) is a brick structure housing a historic bell that once hung in the courthouse (Resource 9).

The courthouse is attached to the Clerk's Office (Resource 3) via a brick arcade constructed during a 1954 building campaign – inspired by Bacon's Castle in Surry and the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg - and renovation projects (Photograph 27). The Clerk's Office is set back approximately 40 feet from Monument Drive and is oriented southwest toward the former courthouse green. The brick arcade along its facade is accessed via a historic narrow brick path extending from Monument Drive (Photograph 46).

North of the Clerk's Office is the brick School Administration Building (Resource 7), which faces away from the historic courthouse green eastward toward a paved, U-shaped drive extending from Monument Circle and wrapping around the courthouse campus. A non-historic frame shed (Resource 8) is sited directly to the rear of the courthouse. Northeast of the shed and courthouse is the site of the former jail, which was constructed in 1902 and demolished in 2012.

Distinct from the civic architecture within the district, yet playing an important political and social role in the everyday goings-on of the court, is Boykin's Tavern (Resource 1). The tavern is separated from the heart of the complex by the paved drive wrapping around the rear of the courthouse campus. A maintained grass lawn surrounds Boykin's Tavern and a scattering of shade trees creates a picturesque, residential feeling distinct from the civic space.

The still-extant historic resources forming the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex include Boykin's Tavern (NRHP-listed 6/19/1974), the original courthouse, the Clerk's Office, the Confederate Monument, a 1937 brick retaining wall, a 1957 historical marker, and the School Administration Building. The following inventory includes all resources within the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex and provides dates of construction, architectural details, as well as contributing versus non-contributing status of each resource.

INVENTORY

1) Boykin's Tavern, (046-0028) (046-0005-0001) Constructed c. 1760, c. 1805-1815, 1902 Contributing Building, NRHP-Listed 1974

Boykin's Tavern was established on the 400-acre plantation originally granted to William Boddy in 1661. Its initial construction appears to date to William Ponsonby's ownership, which began in 1762. An advertisement in the Virginia Gazette, dated September 10, 1767, describes the

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property to be sold by Ponsonby as including a dwelling house underpinned by brick and having a brick gable end. Surviving architectural evidence in the basement and first floor of the current building support this as a possible date for period I construction. See attached Building Plans continuation sheet for dates of extant building sections.

Commonly referred to as Boykin's Tavern, the residence was purchased in 1780 by Major Francis Boykin and was reportedly expanded c. 1810 by his son, Colonel Francis Marshall Boykin, and displays a mixture of mid- to late-18th and early-19th century residential architecture.¹ Boykin purchased the property in September 1780 from Robert Marshall. The building illustrates a transitional character between Colonial and Federal styles. The original, frame 1-story residence includes additions and modifications from two historic building campaigns. Between c. 1805-1815, it is believed that the original massing received a second level, as well as a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed addition along the rear. Nearly a century later, in 1902, the house received numerous repairs and additions, including the present porch, a second two-story frame wing (not extant) and interior remodeling.²

The original c. 1760 dwelling was initially a frame, 1-story, double-pile residence featuring a central hall plan with two rooms on either side, a common Colonial-period residential form in Tidewater Virginia. The second story was likely added c. 1805-1815 by Major Boykin's son, Colonel Francis Marshall Boykin. The first story is frame with brick ends, whereas the upper story is wood frame. This is confirmed by the exposed brick exterior walls on the first level and weatherboard cladding on the upper. The façade (southeast elevation) features weatherboard cladding on both stories (Photographs 15-18).

The façade has five bays with a centered entry door on the first and second stories. The two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on the first story reflect the 1902 modifications, whereas the six-over-nine windows on the second level are likely early-19th century elements. Prominent paired brick end chimneys are on the east and west elevations of the double-pile massing. The façade features a full-width, single-story entry porch and a second-story, front-gabled porch, both part of the 1902 building campaign. The porch roofs are supported by narrow columns with Ionic capitals reflective of the Neoclassical Revival style (*see* Section 8 for discussion on represented styles). The second-story porch features a turned post balustrade and is topped by a prominent pedimented gable with paired windows and decorative wood shingles. The cornice along the façade and porch pediment is further enhanced by Neoclassical Revival-inspired dentils.

Both levels of the double-pile massing maintain the formality and symmetry of Colonial-era precedents. While the building's present exterior lacks evidence of stylistic embellishments accredited to its mid-18th and early-19th century construction phases, its interior is noted for its Federal-style detailing. The uppermost half-story was reportedly added in a later building campaign completed by Oscar Batten in 1902. The Battens added the central staircase, front entry porch, indoor plumbing, and electric lights. At present, the exterior of the house,

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particularly its façade, is distinguished by its modest use of Neoclassical Revival design elements that were introduced during the 1902 remodeling.

The c. 1805 rear wing addition is clad in weatherboard siding and is distinguished by its gambrel roof (Photograph 19). The addition is a simple hall-parlor plan. It sits on a raised basement and features nine-over-nine, double-hung wood sash windows on the first story, and six-over-nine on the second. The brickwork of the basement and exterior-end chimney is laid in three-course American bond.

A second addition along the rear was reportedly completed during the 1903 building campaign. According to a c. 1960 photograph, the early-20th century, two-story ell wing extended from the rear elevation, parallel with the gambrel roof addition (*see* Figure 7). The rear wing featured an apparent corbelled brick end chimney. The wing is no longer extant and has since been replaced with a single-story shed addition (Photograph 20).

Although constructed near the final years of the Colony to Nation period (1751-1789), Boykin's Tavern best illustrates dwellings from the Early National Period (1790-1829), specifically its double-pile form and Federal-style interior woodwork and trim. In addition, the modest Neoclassical Revival-inspired modifications of the early-20th century are characteristic of evolving stylistic trends that emerged during Virginia's Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916) period. The building recently underwent renovations and is open to the public during business hours for Isle of Wight County's Department of Economic Development. It retains a high degree of its historic integrity from each of its historic building phases. Boykin's Tavern is the first extant building constructed within the Courthouse Complex, and it played an important social and civic role in the development of the complex.

2) Isle of Wight County Courthouse; Constructed 1801, 1815-17, 1903, 1954, and 1987 Contributing Building

The Isle of Wight County Courthouse has undergone multiple building campaigns since its 1801 completion (see attached Building Plans continuation sheet). Initially constructed by Major Francis Boykin as a simple, one-story brick building, it was apparent by 1815 that the small courthouse was insufficient to meet the needs of the county. Boykin's son Francis Marshall Boykin, working as the contractor, raised the courthouse to its two-story height between 1815 and 1817. The present courthouse maintains its two-story, front-gabled block completed by 1817. It features a symmetrical, three-bay façade (southeast elevation) with a centered, two-leaf entry door, eight-over-eight, double-hung wood sash windows on the first story, and eight-over-twelve on the second (Photographs 3 to 4). These design elements, particularly the formality and symmetry of the facade, are indicative of the Federal style. Unlike Federal-style decorative embellishments such as fanlights and arched windows, however the current entry with its paneled double doors, installed in 1954, features a flat, molded pediment, and the windows are topped with flat brick jack arches. A full-width, full-height portico, also added in 1954, projects

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from the façade. The portico features slender round columns supporting an architrave and gabled pediment. The gable end of the porch pediment contains an ocular window. Although the courthouse's initial construction is a modest representation of the Federal style, the historic 1954 renovations of the courthouse are Colonial Revival-inspired, a highly popular national trend from the 1890s to the 1950s, and of enduring popularity in Virginia today.

The rear of the courthouse features a two-story extension believed to have been built during the 1903 expansion phase.³ This addition is slightly lower than the original building and features a pedimented gable roof. The windows match those on the original building and feature the same brick jack arches. However, the panes on the front façade are textured glass (Photograph 7). A prominent brick end chimney is centered on the addition's rear gable wall (Photograph 11). The 1903 modifications also included the addition of a bell tower at the northeast corner of the façade (Figure 1). In 1954, a large, two-story addition was added to the northeast elevation of the courthouse, replacing the bell tower (Photograph 12).

In 1954, the aforementioned Colonial Revival-inspired renovations to the courthouse building included the application of a brick veneer to the façade of the Courthouse. Today, two small wall openings on the façade are covered with Plexiglas and reveal the original red brick exterior walls of the courthouse (Photograph 6). The 1954 veneer conceals the original window surrounds, which historic photographs confirm were enhanced by a Federal-style, elliptical-arched header (Figure 2).

Another significant 1954 modification to the courthouse, and the courthouse campus as a whole, was construction of a brick arcade extending from the northeast (side) elevation of the courthouse's 1954 addition to the Clerk's Office (Photographs 13 and 27). The arcade features a gable roof with asphalt shingles, a corbeled brick cornice, and round-arched openings. The brick is laid in Flemish bond. The arcade extends above a brick-paved pathway. The design of the arcade was inspired by Colonial-era and Early National Period precedents. In particular, the county's colonial-era courthouse in nearby Smithfield is distinguished by a prominent arcade extending the full width of the façade and recessed beneath its principal roof. On September 16, 1954, a dedication of the newly remodeled courthouse was held.

In 1987, a large-scale addition was added to the west elevation of the courthouse. The two-story addition features a flat roof and eight-over-eight, double-hung synthetic sash windows. The 1987 building campaign also included the construction of two more arcades. Flanking the courthouse façade's 1954 portico and extending along the southeast elevations of the 1954 and 1987 courthouse sections. The new arcades are designed to mimic those built in 1954; however, they are distinguished from the earlier arcade by a dentiled cornice.

Up to and including the 1987 additions, the multiple building campaigns speak towards the ever-evolving trends in architectural design for civic buildings while maintaining the county's Early

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National Period architectural inspirations. The former courthouse is presently occupied by several departments for Isle of Wight County.

3) Clerk's Office, Constructed 1820, 1822, 1937, Contributing Building

The present Clerk's Office was erected in 1820 as a modest single-story, side-gabled brick building facing southwest towards the historic courthouse green. Shortly after its construction, the building was enlarged with a rear addition in 1822. In 1937, the building nearly doubled with the construction of the east (rear) vault that runs parallel to the original building. According to a plaque above an interior door, the new vault was constructed of brick made in 1845 and salvaged from Scott's Factory, a cotton factory located approximately 5 miles south of Smithfield with beginnings in the 1820s.⁴ Scott's Factory was also known as Logan's Mill. In 1937, Isle of Wight County Clerk and Commissioner in Chancery R.A. Edwards purchased a section of this factory for the construction of the Courthouse, Clerk's Office and retaining wall (see subsequent #4 Brick Wall), as the brick was identical in color and texture to the original structure. Most of the bricks bear the name of the maker, and some noted the date of firing. The architect for the addition was A. DuPre Breeden, and Staley Babb was the hired contractor.⁵ R.A. Edwards oversaw all the work.

The present building is comprised of the original section that faces southwest; a T-wing addition (1822) extending from the rear (northeast elevation); the 1937 rear vault addition that is parallel to the original building as well as a 1937 gabled bay that extends westward; a 1937 shed roof addition on the northwest side of the 1822 rear ell; and the 1954 arcade along the front elevation of the original building (*see* Building Footprints continuation sheet).

Embodying elements of the Federal-style, the original brick Clerk's Office is rectangular in shape with a side gable roof and corbelled brick end chimneys (Photographs 23 to 26). The brick is laid in Flemish bond. Roofing is modern asphalt shingling. Windows have nine-over-nine, double-hung wood sash with flat wood jack arches and wood sills. A corbelled brick cornice lines the front and rear elevations. The façade (southwest elevation) is four bays (window, door, window, window) with an unadorned paneled entry door. Centered on each gable end is an "x"-shaped iron structural bolt.

The brick, round-arched arcade, constructed in 1954, runs along the building's façade. Its Flemish bonding and corbeled brick cornice demonstrate an obvious attempt to mimic the Federal-style elements of the original Clerk's Office. The brick flooring of the arcade is laid in a herringbone pattern and is undoubtedly contemporaneous with the construction of the arcade.

The northwest (side) elevation of the present building is comprised (from right/west to left/east) of the side elevation of the original massing, a single bay of the 1937 shed roof addition, the 1937 gabled addition; and the northwestern (side) elevation of the 1937 vault addition that runs parallel with the original massing (*see* Photographs 29 and 30). The northwest elevation of the

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original building features two window bays. The shed roof addition features a single window on its northwest elevation. The southwest elevation of the gabled wing addition features two windows, and its northwest elevation includes a single door leading to a brick pathway. Finally, the rear of the 1937 parallel addition lacks window or door openings. It features a chimney and iron bolt matching those of the original structure.

The northeast (rear) elevation of the present Clerk's Office is the six-bay wide 1937 vault addition (Photograph 31). Windows match those of the original building, as does the corbelled brick cornice. The two northernmost window bays are infilled with brick. A brick drainage feature runs along the foundation of the addition along this elevation (Photograph 32).

The southeast (side) elevation is comprised, from west to east, of the 1820 building, the 1822 ell projecting toward the northeast, and the 1937 vault addition running parallel with the original office building (Photograph 22). The side elevations of the 1820 and 1937 sections are nearly identical. The perpendicular 1822 addition features two window bays. All windows on the additions match those of the original building.

A notable remnant of the October 18, 1866, duel between William S. Underwood and James Hankins is a bullet indentation in a brick just to the left of the entrance. Their dispute followed a disagreement over the April 1865 surrender of the Surry Light Artillery at Appomattox Court House where Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his forces.

The former Clerk's Office is presently vacant/not in use except as storage. Despite multiple additions, all are historic, and further the Federal-style aesthetic of the original design. The building continues to evoke a sense of place associated with the Early National Period.

4) Brick Wall, Constructed 1937, Contributing Structure

The brick retaining wall separating the original courthouse green from Monument Circle is contemporaneous with the construction of the 1937 addition to the Clerk's Office (Photographs 42 to 44). It is further believed that the brick used for the construction of the wall is the same as that used to erect the addition. The red brick wall is approximately three (3) to four (4) feet tall and is similarly laid utilizing Flemish bonding. The top course of the wall is comprised of brick headers with rounded edges. The wall breaks at the entrance to the paths leading to the courthouse and the Clerk's Office. At each break, the wall curves upward, enhancing its visual appeal and adding decorative landscaping elements to the Courthouse Complex.

Within the brick wall, near the opening to the path leading to the courthouse is a single stretcher brick with "LOGAN" engraved on its face (Photograph 43). Isle of Wight County's first known manufacturing took place at Scott's Factory, a cotton mill. In operation from 1828 until the Civil War, the factory was also known as Logan's Mill. In 1860, the U.S. Census notes that in one Isle of Wight County household of 10 people, seven women – all with different surnames – worked

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at the factory. Bricks at Scott's Factory were made in 1845, and they were salvaged to construct this brick wall in 1937. Bricks were also repurposed for the Clerk's Office vault addition.

5) Confederate Monument, Erected 1905, Contributing Object

The Confederate Monument within the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex is noted as being the second-oldest such monument in Virginia's Tidewater region.⁶ Made of Petersburg gray granite, the monument was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy on May 30, 1905 at the height of the Lost Cause movement (Photograph 40). Engravings on the monument include the seal and monogram of the Confederate States of America, the date of the Civil War, and the phrase, "Our Confederate Dead." Its granite shaft is octagonal. The stone soldier topping the Isle of Wight monument faces toward the highway and brief engravings are found on all faces of the octagonal shaft. The monument is surrounded by an open grassed lawn. Differentiating Isle of Wight's Confederate monument from other examples on courthouse lawns across Virginia is that it appears to be a custom-built example and did not include one of the mass-produced metal figures of soldiers commonly found on other monuments.⁷

Despite a degree of weathering, as well as recent debates over the removal of the Confederate Monument, the object, including the circular green within which it stands, contributes to the ever-evolving heritage and setting of the courthouse complex.

6) Bronze Marker, Erected 1957, Contributing Object

The bronze marker, erected by the Isle of Wight County Jamestown Commission, was placed in front of the courthouse in 1957 following the extensive renovations of the courthouse and grounds in the years prior (Photograph 48). The rectangular marker is attached to a square granite stone and placed within the center of the 1954 brick walkway leading to the courthouse. The plaque reads:

"ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY FORMERLY CALLED WARROSQUOYACKE AFTER INDIANS OF THIS AREA VISITED BY CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH 1608 SETTLED BY CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER LAWNE AND OTHER ADVENTURERS 1619 ONE OF EIGHT ORIGINAL SHIRES 1634-1637."

The plaque further lists County courthouse locations:

- 1) "SMITHFIELD 1694-1736/1749-1750"
- 2) "BLACKWATER 1736-1749"
- 3) "SMITHFIELD 1750-1800"
- 4) "PRESENT LOCATION 1800"

A map of the county shows the four locations of the county courthouses.

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7) School Administration Building, 1960, Contributing Building

The School Administration Building was constructed in 1960, continuing ambitious local government building campaigns of the 1950s. The square brick building is designed in the Colonial Revival style, drawing upon the Federal-style aesthetic of the earlier buildings within the Courthouse Complex. The building features a low-pitched hipped roof and a brick exterior of Flemish bond. A vertical stretcher course distinguishes the water table and a dentiled cornice surrounds the facility.

The façade (northeast elevation) is three bays with a centered entry door and two windows set high on the wall. The entry door is glazed and paneled with a transom and a metal awning above. The windows feature brick jack arches and brick sills. Although they are double-hung sash, the windows employ vinyl “pop-ins,” giving the appearance of eight-over-eight. The rear of the building is three bays with an off-centered entry that opens to a raised brick stoop. The stoop features a hipped roof supported by metal posts. Beneath the water table are two basement windows with metal awnings, each surrounded by a small brick retaining wall.

The building is the county’s first office erected specifically for the administration of the county’s public school system. Its original design and Colonial Revival-style is intact and contributes to the early National Period aesthetic. The building is presently occupied by Isle of Wight County’s Information Technology Department.

8) Frame Shed, Constructed c. 1980, Non-Contributing Building

A review of USGS topographic maps suggests that the frame shed, located directly behind the original courthouse, was erected around 1980 (Photograph 11). The shed features a front gable roof and is oriented toward the northwest, fronting the paved drive that wraps around the complex. The shed features flush board siding and a two-leaf door made of plywood. A gravel path leads from the shed to the paved drive. It is believed to be used as a maintenance shed.

Due to its construction date outside the period of significance and its nondescript design, the shed is not considered a contributing element to the Courthouse Complex.

9) Bell House, 1984, Non-Contributing Structure

The bell house was erected in 1984 to house the historic bell removed from the former courthouse bell tower (Photograph 37). The open bell house is a square arcade above a brick pathway laid in a herringbone pattern. The round archways feature a surround of two courses of header brick and a keystone. The asphalt-shingled roof is gabled and features a simple white wood cornice. Like its historic counterparts, the brick bell house is constructed using a Flemish

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bond. The historic bell taken from the former corner bell tower of the courthouse hangs from the interior (Photograph 38).

Due to its recent construction date outside the district's period of significance, the bell house is not a contributing element to the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex.

Integrity

The Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex retains its historic *location* sited on a former plantation alongside a rural transportation route. Historically, the complex and highway were surrounded by agricultural fields and woodlands. In recent years (2005-2010), expansions of the county government to the northeast of the historic complex reduced the agricultural fields once characterizing the historic setting. Despite these alterations to the northeast, overall, the historic rural *setting* retains a good level of integrity. The historic layout, spatial relationships, and arrangement of Boykin's Tavern, the government buildings, and the Civil War monument is unaltered. Although most of the historic resources exhibit later modifications to original materials and design elements, these changes occurred during important historic building campaigns and maintained the district's significant aesthetic of a rural courthouse campus from the Early National Period. As such, the complex retains a high degree of its historic *design*, *materials*, and overall *feeling*. Although court proceedings are no longer held in the former courthouse, resources continue to be utilized by the County government. Further, Boykin's Tavern operates as Isle of Wight County's Department of Economic Development. It is open to the public for self-guided tours during office hours. As a result of the cumulative influences of integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, and materials, together with ample historic documentation, the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex continues to retain its historic *feeling* and conveys its *association* with events important to the County's history and Virginia's early history as well as with significant architectural trends.

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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

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

HISTORY

Period of Significance

c. 1780-1960

Significant Dates

c. 1780, 1801, c. 1805-1815

1815-1817, 1820, 1822

1901-03, 1905, 1937, 1954, 1960

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Major Francis Boykin

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Boykin, Major Francis (Builder)

Breeden, A. Dupre (Architect)

Stanley Babb, (Contractor)

Zachariah Turner (Contractor)

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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 Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex is eligible for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with a period of significance of c. 1780 to 1960. The period of significance begins with Major Francis Boykin's purchase of a pre-existing dwelling and operating it as a tavern and ends with completion of the School Administration Board Building in 1960. The historic resources include the late 18th century residence-turned tavern, modest Early National Period civic architecture, and early- to mid-20th century building campaigns aimed at expanding and improving upon existing facilities. The district is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government for its association with county governance from the late-18th through the mid-20th century. From the meetings and social gatherings held at Boykin's Tavern, to everyday courthouse affairs, the complex has been a center of civic and social life since the late 18th century. Under Criterion B, the historic district is significant locally for its association with Major Francis Boykin, who was instrumental in the move of the county courthouse from Smithfield to this location and the subsequent construction of the earliest court buildings on the site. The historic district is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Its overall layout and landscape illustrate the evolution of more than 200 years as the county seat from its casual beginnings within a rural setting to a more formal, distinctive, designed landscape by the early-20th century. Careful planning and conscious selections of architectural treatments through the first half of the 20th century allowed the courthouse grounds to continue to evoke Early National Period county seats centrally located within a rural atmosphere in Virginia. In addition, the Courthouse Complex buildings, renovations, and additions demonstrate a continuance of Early National Period ideals through their architectural distinction, and the cultural associations and aesthetic characteristics of Federal, Neoclassical, and Colonial Revival design.

Significant dates of the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex encompass the various building campaigns for historic resources within the district, including significant periods of growth and expansion. Circa 1780 marks the purchase of the land by Major Boykin, and c. 1805-1815, and 1901-1903 mark the two significant building modifications to Boykin's Tavern. The County Courthouse was completed in 1801 and underwent expansion and remodeling projects in 1815-1817 and 1954. The Clerk's Office was completed c. 1820, with expansions in 1822 and 1937. The Confederate Monument at the principal entrance to the complex was erected in 1905. In addition to the 1954 remodeling of the courthouse, that same year the courthouse grounds underwent extensive upgrades with the introduction of the prominent arcade. Finally, the 1960 construction of the School Administration Building contributes to the nostalgia and aesthetics of the Courthouse Complex through its use of the Colonial Revival style. It further marks an important step forward in the county's administration of public education.

Additionally, Boykin's Tavern was individually listed in the NRHP in 1974. The nomination, which has not since been updated, lists Architecture and History as areas of significance and the property's period of significance was broadly defined as 18th century and 19th century.

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

Criterion A: Politics/Government

Isle of Wight County Politics and Government

Originally referred to as the Warraskoyack Shire, Isle of Wight County is one of the eight original shires of the Virginia Colony formed by 1634. By 1654, the shire was divided into two parishes, the Upper and Lower, and monthly court held at each.⁸ Court in the Upper parish was held near the east bank of Mount Holly Creek on the Glebe Farm, approximately one mile southwest of present-day Smithfield. Its location at the northern end of the county proved unsatisfactory, and in 1734, the House of Burgesses ordered that a new courthouse be erected on Blackwater River. The new site for the courthouse was approximately 17 miles south of the former court. In 1749, Isle of Wight County was divided at Blackwater River and Southampton County was formed. The Blackwater River courthouse was no longer conveniently located, and a brick courthouse was then constructed at present-day Smithfield in 1751 (NRHP-listed 9/15/1970). There, the county erected an impressive, arcaded courthouse and associated buildings. That same year, county courts were formally established by the appointment of eight justices of the peace, “four of whom could act and compose a monthly court with the oldest in commission acting as presiding officer.”⁹

The years 1751 to 1789 saw the full maturity of a slavery-based plantation system in Virginia, which would play a significant role in state, regional, and local politics. Nearby Norfolk, Virginia, emerged as a busy port town for the trade of agricultural goods, as well as enslaved Africans and persons of African descent.¹⁰ The increase in slavery contributed to the establishment of vast plantations that exploited slave labor to generate tremendous wealth for a small class of slaveowners. This trend was particularly noted in the Tidewater region of Virginia. The wealthy white planters subsequently formed the basis of the ruling class.¹¹ Ultimately, these planter-statesmen played critical roles in the formation of a new nation. Isle of Wight County’s government was composed of men who owned land, could read and write, and had experience with leadership. Among those individuals from Isle of Wight County was Major Francis Boykin, who would become a significant player in county government.

Following the Revolutionary War and throughout much of the Early National Period (1790-1829), justices of the peace continued to serve, without pay, a provision that assured only wealthy men could hold the position. During this period, the word “democracy” was at the forefront of political discussion; however, at the local level, government tended to continue the customs and practices of the Colonial era.¹² Local county governments were not elected by the people, but by the Virginia governor, who selected officials from a “short list of nominees proposed by the members of the court itself.”¹³ These men were required to be able to read, write, and to some degree, interpret the law. As such, the justices of the peace tended to be the “cream of the crop,” creating a county oligarchy, with sons succeeding their fathers as justice.¹⁴

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Consequently, the planter-statemanager system of political power that evolved during Virginia's transition from colony to statehood carried over to the Early National Period. The economic prosperity of these individuals remained heavily reliant on slave labor. As such, politics during this period in Isle of Wight County undoubtedly included considerable discussions concerning both the enslaved African Americans and free persons of color who lived in the jurisdiction. The wealthy justices of the peace represented all branches of the county government, touching nearly all aspects of county life. These individuals were responsible for appointing constables, surveyors, and administrators of estates. They "probated wills, opened new roads, approved deeds of sale, fixed bonds, licensed taverns, and levied taxes, among a myriad of other responsibilities."¹⁵

Upon the formation of a new county, justices were named by the General Assembly.¹ Among the first requirements of the elected justices of the peace was the erection of public buildings within the county that were conveniently located to the majority of its residents. Isle of Wight County was formed prior to the Revolutionary War, and the county seat was well-established at Smithfield. The Colonial-era courthouse continued to serve as the seat of government and civic center of the county in the years following the war. Court day was an "interesting occasion, with people gathering to learn the news and visit with neighbors, to say nothing of selling houses and maybe a cow or two. Court day was thought of as a holiday for the county."¹⁶ People across the county would meet in the courthouse green to listen to speeches, trade goods, settle debts, and sell property. It is likely that slave auctions were among the many activities associated with Court day in Smithfield during this period. Despite the great activity associated with Court day, beginning as late as 1798, petitions were made to relocate the Isle of Wight County courthouse to a more central location within the county. Major Francis Boykin offered to donate to the County two acres of his plantation, conveniently adjacent to his residence (which became known as Boykin's Tavern).¹⁷ Boykin further proposed that, "in exchange for the courthouse, new jail, the clerk's office in Smithfield, and the land they stood on, he would bind himself to build on his land, as near the mill as the nature of the ground would permit, a courthouse, jail, and stocks."¹⁸

The county seat relocated to its present location beginning in 1800. The General Assembly passed an act on January 7, 1800, appointing commissioners to oversee and supervise the construction of the new courthouse and a jail "sufficiently large and suitable to serve the county."¹⁹ As agreed, Major Boykin was to expense and construct the facilities on the most convenient place on his land. The fourth Isle of Wight County Courthouse was constructed by Major Francis Boykin and completed in 1801. During its construction, court was held at Boykin's Tavern (NRHP 1974; DHR #046-028), adjacent to the site of the courthouse.² From 1801 to 1988, the courthouse erected by Francis Boykin housed the county court.

It is unclear when the county jail was erected. However, it was apparent by 1815 that a jail was so insufficient that it was deemed necessary to build an entirely new one. A court order was made that year to appoint individuals to let the construction of a new jail and to enlarge the

¹ The General Assembly is the state legislature, initially established as the House of Burgess in 1619. It became the General Assembly in 1776 with the ratification of the Virginia Constitution.

² The following section relates to the history of Major Francis Boykin and Boykin's Tavern.

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existing courthouse.²⁰ Apparently, the construction of the two facilities by Colonel Francis Marshall Boykin had proved inadequate to meet the needs of the County. Boykin, working as the contractor, raised the courthouse to its present two-story height between 1815 and 1817. It is believed that a new two-story jail was also constructed during this time.

The Clerk's Office remained in Smithfield until around 1802-1803. The new Clerk's Office was not constructed until c. 1820 at its present location fronting west toward the courthouse green. Prior to this time, public documents and records were reportedly stored in a frame building behind Boykin's Tavern.²¹ A substantial addition to the Clerk's Office was erected only two years following its initial construction. This suggests that there was a rapid increase in the quantity of public records in such a short period of time that it was deemed necessary for the construction of additional storage space.

The new Clerk's Office played an important role in the everyday activities of the court. Clerks of the Circuit Court were often active community leaders, volunteers and members of various civic organizations in the numerous counties and cities across the State of Virginia. At the time of its relocation in 1802-1803, the Isle of Wight County Circuit Court Clerk was Nathaniel Young. For nearly 120 years, members of the Young family successively served as Circuit Court Clerk from 1787 to 1905. Francis Young I was the first member of the family to take office. His son Nathaniel took office in 1801 amidst the transition of court activities from Smithfield to its present location. He served until his death in 1841. He was succeeded by his son Nathaniel Peyton Young who served until 1896, with the exception of one year following the Civil War when he refused to swear allegiance to the United States. Nathaniel F. Young then held the position between 1896 until his death in 1905. There are reportedly no surviving members of the Young family in Isle of Wight County today.²²

Following the expansion of the Clerk's Office in 1822, a report on the condition of the jail, dated October 5, 1833, was issued. The inspector's report describes the jail as a two-story brick building with two rooms on the first floor for criminals and the debtor's room on the second. Based on the inspection, it was recommended that new steps be built, and various repairs be undertaken.²³

Throughout the Antebellum Period (1831-1861), the state government's political control continued to rest in Virginia's Tidewater and Piedmont regions "where slavery was the underpinning of both the economy and the social structure."²⁴ The three decades between Virginia's Constitution of 1830 and secession from the United States remained relatively static in Virginia compared to those of more urbanized Northern states. During the early years of the Antebellum Period, crop failures and reduced tobacco prices, coupled with the state's lack of effort to exploit its strategic Mid-Atlantic location along waterways for commerce and industry, resulted in a number of Virginia's wealthy planters recouping their losses by selling enslaved persons "down the river" to plantations in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Throughout the 1830s, slave auctions at or near a jurisdiction's county courthouse were commonplace; the practice likely extended into Isle of Wight County, although conclusive documentation of such activities has yet to be identified.²⁵

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By 1860, the county population was 9,977 residents, including 1,370 persons classified as “free blacks” and 3,570 enslaved individuals. During the Civil War, approximately 860 (not official) county residents served as Confederate soldiers. Loyal to the Confederacy, the county court continued to function on the home front and the justices of the peace remained in control of local legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The officers of the court, the sheriff, the clerk, and the attorneys for the Commonwealth made up the county government.²⁶

A number of court orders during the Civil War speak towards the various concerns of county residents, specifically the slaveholding, white male voters. For example, in 1861, the court appointed a committee, including Francis M. Boykin (grandson of Major Francis Boykin), with the authority to borrow money to purchase arms for the use of the county. This could simply have been done to provide arms to local residents such as a home guard, but the purpose is not fully known. Also in 1862, it was documented that during the Confederate Army rented enslaved workers and hired free blacks (the latter were to be paid 50 cents per day) to work on Fort Huger. In December of that year, Isle of Wight County Commissioner of the Revenue B.J. Gray sent a letter to Richmond on behalf of the free black laborers, who had not yet been paid for their efforts. He indicated that he would travel to Richmond on their behalf to collect payment if necessary. Meanwhile, in April 1862, the Isle of Wight County court ordered that all boats on the local Cypress Creek be checked and that all those likely to be useful to escaping slaves be destroyed or removed.²⁷

Court orders such as these illustrate the magnitude of the Contrabands Decision issued by U.S. Army Major General Benjamin Butler at Fort Monroe on May 24, 1861. Three enslaved men who had been made to work on Confederate defenses escaped and made their way to territory held by the U.S. military. Taking into account that the Confederate Army was compelling enslaved individuals to work on military needs, Butler determined that enslaved African Americans who could reach U.S.-held territory would be treated as “contrabands of war” not subject to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Equating enslaved people to other types of property that could be confiscated by the Union Army, Butler argued that U.S. forces were not obliged to return said property. Butler’s statement placed tremendous pressure on President Abraham Lincoln to declare emancipation for all enslaved persons in Confederate territory, which he ultimately did with the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. As a result of these actions, hundreds of African American Virginians fled to Union-occupied territories, even sometimes joining troops on the march, as well as seeking shelter at fortification such as Fort Monroe.²⁸ Many of the African American men who had escaped were recruited into the Union Army to be part of the United States Colored Troops (USCT), formed in 1863. At least 5,723 black Virginians served; it is not known how many Virginia-born and -raised men, especially former slaves who may have fled the state or been sold to other parts of the Confederacy, joined the USCT from outside Virginia.²⁹ In 1864, Official Records of the Union notes that Contrabands, referred to as official government employees, were escorted by ship to Isle of Wight County for the purposes of collecting their families and returning to Fort Monroe.

On May 5, 1862, the Clerk of the Court of Isle of Wight, N.P. Young, was authorized to remove all court records from the county to prevent confiscation should U.S. forces take control of the

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courthouse. Randall Booth, an enslaved African American owned by Young, gathered the records and hid them in Greenville and Brunswick County until the end of the war. By virtue of a proclamation by Governor John Fletcher of Virginia, Isle of Wight's county court was temporarily moved to Mill Swamp Church prior to December 5, 1864, where it remained until May 1, 1865, shortly after Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.³⁰

During the war years, the county's economy had been devastated. Many of the county's elite had chosen to tie up their wealth in owners of enslaved African Americans. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, followed by the abolition of slavery after the Civil War, endowed African Americans in Isle of Wight County with freedom to seek employment beyond the plantation fields and boating, lumbering, and fishing industries to which they previously had been confined. No longer permitted to exploit an enslaved workforce, plantation owners managed to retain ownership of their land by some combination of selling whatever lands could be spared, selling personal property, and seeking new commercial opportunities. Landowners more or less reverted to a subsistence-type agricultural economy and sought less labor-intensive cash crops that could generate cash income. Peanuts and ham soon became major agricultural products in the county, and remained so into the twentieth century. Prior to the Civil War, the local population of free persons of color had been property owners, farmers, lumbermen, and fishermen. After the war, they and emancipated African Americans pursued similar trades but also found expanded opportunities in the nascent peanut and ham industries.

Following the Civil War and during Reconstruction, restructuring of county governments was an important objective in an attempt to dislodge the ruling class that had dominated Virginia at the local and state levels for decades. Among the most critical efforts was providing publicly funded education to all free residents, including African Americans. Prior to the Civil War, education had primarily been privately funded and reserved for elite white families. Virginia's antebellum slavery codes first discouraged, then outlawed, education of free and enslaved African Americans.³¹ Another facet of this Reconstruction effort was requiring the former Confederate states to ratify new constitutions. Following a contentious constitutional convention, Virginia's was ratified in 1869 and included an article for the state's first system of public schools. The new constitution also granted adult African American men the right to vote. The General Assembly was named responsible for electing a school superintendent for each county, with the objective of establishing a uniform system of public schools throughout the state by 1876. Efforts to include amendments prohibiting racial segregation within the school system, however, were rejected.

In 1870, the newly formed state board of education appointed county school superintendents. Nearly 3,000 schools were formed statewide by August of 1871. In Isle of Wight County, the county was quick to form its first county public school system. On October 1, 1870, Col. E.M. Morrison was appointed by the Virginia Senate as the county's first superintendent. Among his first tasks was establishment of three district school boards, which included the Newport, Hardy, and Windsor districts. In February of 1871, Morrison met with the three districts at the courthouse with the intent to consider plans for raising additional local funds for public schools,

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including various tax increases. By the close of 1871, Isle of Wight school districts reported a total of 25 schools, which included five (5) for African Americans.³² In addition to the establishment of schools, Morrison's responsibilities extended to hiring of qualified teachers, adoption of textbooks and curriculum, inspections of school facilities, and ensuring that each school was equipped with sufficient teaching supplies.³³ Even at this early stage, however, inequities in the segregated school system were apparent, with schools for white children receiving the lion's share of public funds. Thus, by 1880, the number of schools in Isle of Wight County reached 44, of which only 13 were for African American pupils. In 1881, Morrison was replaced by William S. Holland as superintendent. Holland followed Morrison's recommendation to consolidate several growing schools as a means of lowering costs. Increases in student attendance and the number of county schools were evident by 1895.³⁴

During the early years of the 20th century, further strides in public education were made in Isle of Wight County. In 1922, the Isle of Wight County School Board was created. Between 1910 and 1925, school attendance increased by 50 percent, the school term was extended by two months, more teachers were hired, and salaries tripled.³⁵ In 1908, the county had 43 white schools, which were consolidated by 1916 into nineteen (19) larger school facilities. Improvements to existing schools and the construction of new schools were significant. The erection of the Windsor high School building in 1916 further fueled the movement toward better school facilities. The consolidation and improvement of white schools within the county continued through the 1930s and 1940s. For the county's African American population, however, progress was far more limited. The majority of schools for African American children still were held in churches, privately-owned residences, or other temporary quarters. Gradually, the county school board consolidated a number of the school districts by erecting new buildings or improving existing facilities. Because of persistent inequities in distribution of taxpayer dollars, in many instances, land for African American schools had donated by African American residents or paid for with private funds, including philanthropic grants from wealthy donors outside Virginia.³⁶ The Rosenwald Schools program is among the best known of the philanthropic efforts for African American children across the former slave-holding states. Isle of Wight County had four Rosenwald schools, Christian Home, Ebenezer, the Isle of Wight Training School and Camptown. Unlike schools for white children, which offered broad-based academic curricula, those for African American children emphasized training for employment, in the agricultural and industrial sectors for boys and in domestic employment for girls. While the county's white children could attend a high school by 1916, African American students had to wait until 1939 for a similar opportunity, when the Isle of Wight Training High School became a four-year accredited high school with an enrollment of 165 pupils.

After World War II, localities across Virginia recognized the need to modernize public schools. Concomitant growth in school administration occurred. The county's first School Administration Building (Resource 7) was completed in 1960 on the grounds of the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex.³⁷ Superintendent L.T. Hall was the first county superintendent to occupy an office in a publicly owned building. He retired shortly after the building's construction. On July 1, 1961, the new School Administration Building was dedicated to Hall. At the same time, desegregation of public schools in Virginia was under way, beginning on February 2, 1959, after

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admittance of small numbers of African American students into all-white schools was ordered in several locations across the state. Across the Commonwealth, both local and state officials worked to minimize the amount of desegregation, making the process complex and discouraging for African Americans seeking better education opportunities. By 1965, approximately only 5 percent of African American students had been enrolled in formerly all-white schools in Virginia. Isle of Wight County appears to reflect a similar trend. Integration of the county's schools did not begin until 1964, after Congress passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act. A portion of the Act threatened localities that refused to integrate with the loss of federal funding.³⁸ Rather than forego the federal dollars, many localities chose to begin integrating their schools, including Isle of Wight County, albeit at varying speeds. The 1968 Supreme Court decision, *Green v. New Kent County*, however, ended one of the last mechanisms for maintaining segregation, "freedom of choice" plans that had been designed to impede African American students' enrollment in white schools. Following this decision, desegregation of public schools in Virginia occurred at a much more rapid pace between 1968 and 1973.³⁹

In addition to the County's establishment and maintenance of the public-school system, by the early 20th century, county residents were experiencing an improved economy and a strengthening population. Various campaigns ensued to improve the courthouse and government-related buildings throughout the early- to mid-20th century. In 1903, the county courthouse received its first expansion since 1817, when the two-story, gable-roofed rear addition was constructed and a bell tower was added at the northeast corner of the façade

The early-19th-century jail was replaced with a two-story brick facility in 1902. The new jail building was sited directly north of the courthouse.⁴⁰ By 1900, W. A. Shanks, either a county employee or a citizen tasked with this duty, presented plans to the county's board of supervisors and an estimated cost of a new jail. Shortly thereafter, R.T. Dick, J. M. Ballard, J. R. Latimer and County Sheriff R.A. Edwards were appointed to a committee tasked with field trips to Warwick Court House, Hampton, and Newport News to examine their jails. They were asked to obtain information about the jails themselves as well as steel cells before reporting back to the supervisors. The committee report their findings in January 1902. Afterwards, the board appointed C. T. King, supervisor, to visit Courtland's jail in Southampton County and gather information about its cost and size. In February 1862, the board fully discussed the matter of building a new jail and agreed to ask B. F. Smith, agent to Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri, to furnish exact plans of the new jail recently built in Southampton County. Within the next month, bids for Isle of Wight County's jail were advertised in the *Manufacturers Record* of Baltimore, a turn-of-the-century business journal read by early 20th-century industrialists. Ultimately, the B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company in Washington, D.C., won the contract with a bid of \$6,800. The B. F. Smith Company specialized in constructing fireproof public buildings and built or modified many of Virginia's courthouses, jails and clerk's offices. The Pauly Jail Company was founded in 1856 and was the leading manufacturer at the time of jail components such as locks, doors and bars. The company is still in business today. The new jail was completed on time. B. F. Smith appeared before the board of supervisors on Oct. 13, 1902, to officially turn the building over to the County, stating that the jail was ready for occupancy. In 1923, another agent for the Pauly Jail Building Company was tasked with

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upgrading the jail's security. This building eventually was converted for storage as the Clerk's Office needed the space for all of its records. With the opening of the Young-Laine Courts Building in 2011, the Clerk's Office had enough storage space, rendering the jail without any useful purpose. It was demolished in 2012.

On May 30, 1905, the United Daughters of the Confederacy dedicated the Confederate Monument that stands in front of the courthouse in an open grassed lawn that was likely created for this purpose. A c. 1910 photograph of the courthouse complex, including the Confederate Monument, confirms the presence of Monument Circle (then a dirt road) surrounding a grassed field with the Confederate Monument at its center (*see* Figure 1). The dedication ceremony was likely typical of those held across the Commonwealth between 1900 and 1915, during the height of the Lost Cause Movement that sought to memorialize the short-lived Confederacy and reestablish the antebellum social and political order. These ceremonies often included brass bands, military companies, parades, and speeches, generally to an all-white audience, among other festivities.⁴¹

The Clerk's Office nearly doubled in size in 1937 when an addition was built perpendicular to the original building. The brick addition, along with the construction of the attractive brick retaining wall (Resource 4) separating the original courthouse green from Monument Circle, were reportedly constructed of brick made in 1845 and salvaged from "Old Scott's Factory" (which was also known as Logan's Mill), the county's first known cotton factory, erected by 1828 approximately 5 miles south of Smithfield. The architect of the Clerk's Office addition was A. DuPre Breeden and Stanley Babb was the hired contractor.⁴² These additions, using salvaged materials, suggest a slowly recovering local economy during the latter years of the Great Depression.

The final significant period of building campaigns to the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex occurred during the New Dominion Virginia period (1946-1975). This period begins in 1946 in the immediate aftermath of World War II and the beginning years of the Cold War. It is characterized by economic prosperity, expanding government roles, and the Civil Rights Movement, among other important themes. A defining aspect of the postwar era was rapid growth of government services at the Federal, State, and local levels throughout Virginia.⁴³ At the local level, but often funded with federal grants, government expanded to meet new functions and services in the areas of health, education, housing, community development, and welfare.⁴⁴

In order to accommodate the needs of expanding government programming at the local level, counties across the state embarked on building campaigns to erect modern facilities and office buildings and modernize existing civic architecture. Such is the case in Isle of Wight County. The 1954 renovations to the Courthouse Complex are a reflection of expanding government, population growth, and economic prosperity, all of which characterized New Dominion Virginia. Isle of Wight County's courthouse was remodeled under the direction of architect Paul Woodward and contractor Zachariah Turner of the Z Turner Construction Company of Suffolk, Virginia. The remodeling included removal of the 1903 bell tower and its replacement with a large addition on the courthouse's east side. Turner reportedly carefully stored the bell at his

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home. A brick veneer was added to the courthouse's 19th-century façade and the four-columned portico was built to evoke the Colonial Revival style. Mimicking Colonial- and Early National-era courthouses elsewhere in the Tidewater, a brick arcade was constructed to connect the courthouse and the Clerk's Office. Following the remodel, the county erected the bronze marker in 1957 depicting the location of each courthouse in the County's history up to that time. As noted above, in 1960, the new School Administration Building was constructed on the courthouse campus as well.

At the county's Sesqui-tricentennial Celebration in 1984, Zachariah Turner's daughter, Anna Goode Turner, presented the courthouse bell to the county, along with an "appropriate brick enclosure for it" (Resource 9).⁴⁵ In 1987, the courthouse was greatly enlarged with an addition on its west side. An arcade was constructed across the facades of the 1987 (west) and 1954 (east) additions in a style similar to the 1954 arcade, thus visually unifying the facades of the courthouse and Clerk's Office. In 1988, a new courthouse facility was erected on adjacent land to the north. Since that time, the historic courthouse has been occupied by the offices of the treasurer, the commissioner of revenue, the registrar, and the building inspector, among others. Interior modifications included installation of an elevator for the first time.⁴⁶ The Clerk's Office is presently vacant although it is used for storage.

Criterion B: Politics/Government: *Major Francis Boykin*

Major Francis Boykin's property occupied an originally 400-acre tract of land granted to William Boddy in 1661. In 1762, it was acquired by William Ponsonby, who he reportedly erected a small plantation house on the property (unknown location). An advertisement placed in the *Virginia Gazette* for the sale of the property in 1767 described the house as having "a kitchen underpinned with brick and brick gable end. The two principal outbuildings were a smokehouse and a storehouse."⁴⁷ The article further confirmed the presence of a fenced garden, a yard with an apple and peach orchard, and a gristmill. In 1780, Major Francis Boykin acquired the plantation, which included saw- and gristmills on an adjoining two acres. Although the mills are no longer extant, evidence of a water mill survives as the Courthouse Millpond adjacent to the west of the nominated property.

Boykin was an influential figure in Isle of Wight County history. During the American Revolution, he served as a lieutenant with Patrick Henry in the 4th Company of the First Virginia Regiment and as a major in the Continental Line.⁴⁸ Following the war, Boykin purchased the plantation and added a large-scale addition to the original double-pile dwelling constructed nearly twenty years earlier by William Ponsonby. It is unclear when Boykin began using his residence as a tavern. However, its central location along a principal trading route was advantageous, and the operation of a tavern likely coincided with the construction of the addition, if not prior to his ownership. The gristmill provided flour for the tavern and nearby residents. A dairy, chicken house, and stables were also located behind the tavern and provided additional comforts for guests.⁴⁹

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Boykin was appointed as the county sheriff in 1792 and served as a justice on the County's courts in 1797.⁵⁰ It is not surprising that he was influential in the decision to relocate the courthouse to a central location within the county at the turn-of-the-19th century, particularly recognizing the personal benefits it would afford him by having the seat of government adjacent to his own residence, tavern, and grist- and sawmills. With the county's acceptance of his offer to donate land and to build the courthouse, the court relocated in 1800.

Boykin began construction of the new courthouse in 1799. While under construction, court was held in the main room of his tavern. The courthouse was completed in 1801; however, Boykin's Tavern remained an important center for political discussions and social life, providing accommodations and food for individuals participating in daily court dealings.

Major Francis Boykin continued to operate the tavern until his death in 1805. His son, Colonel Francis Marshall Boykin, inherited the property. It is believed that he continued the expansion of the residence between 1805 and 1817, adding the second floor and a gambrel-roof addition along the rear. Colonel Boykin joined the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812, returning to Isle of Wight County and his plantation in 1817. At the age of 36, Boykin passed away and the tavern, mills, and plantation passed through a succession of subsequent owners.⁵¹

Tavern Ownership following the Boykin Family

William Womble acquired the property in 1861. Womble continue to run the tavern, which was particularly busy during court days. In addition, he rented rooms to travelers. Following the Civil War, economic depression resulted in Womble selling 103 acres of the plantation. He died in 1902 and the remainder of the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Batten.⁵² The Battens embarked on an extensive building campaign, adding the uppermost half story, entry porch, interior staircase, and modern plumbing. In addition, the family erected a store (not extant) within the circular drive located in front of the house alongside Courthouse Highway.⁵³

Fred and Cora Wilson purchased the farmstead and residence in 1913. Fred continued farming operations while also serving as the jailer for the Isle of Wight County jail, which was then located directly behind the courthouse. During the Wilsons' ownership of the farm, they boarded teachers for the public school located across the street until a new school was built in 1923. Court officers were boarders, and the Wilsons provided meals on court days, and prepared food for the inmates in the jail. Fred Wilson died in 1954. His daughter, Katherine, moved into the house and her husband, George Walls, continued farming operations, ran the jail, and took over the store. In 1973, the family sold Boykin's Tavern and the remaining two acres of land to Isle of Wight County.⁵⁴

Boykin's Tavern remained empty following the county's acquisition of the property in 1973. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places the following year. The residence was used for storage, while the outbuildings at the rear of the property were torn down to accommodate courthouse parking. With the tavern having fallen into disrepair, renovations began in 1999 and

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were completed by 2001. It presently houses county offices and is open to the public as the Boykin's Tavern Museum.⁵⁵

As early as the colonial period, taverns were a mainstay for court dealings throughout Virginia. Court day "could not have functioned without such an establishment somewhere near the temple of Justice." The majority of taverns were private residences with a public license, while others were purpose-built structures. In either case, the "courthouse tavern provided rooms to accommodate travelers, served meals and spiritous beverages to guests, acted as a business exchange, and was the venue for polite and raucous public entertainments such as assemblies, theatricals, lectures, gambling, and sporting activities."⁵⁶ Taverns were essential for court-day proceedings. They provided a rare place for men of varying classes to meet to discuss "business, religion, or politics in a more relaxed setting, not free of but certainly loosened from the normal restraints of a status-conscious hierarchical society."⁵⁷ They further provided a venue for court justices to conduct their business in a more hospitable environment rather than the strict setting of the courtroom.⁵⁸

While the majority of taverns tended to be within close proximity to courthouse squares in the heart of developing villages, they also dominated rural crossroads communities that emerged around public buildings. According to Carl Lounsbury's history of courthouses in early Virginia, in instances where the county courthouse was centrally located within a rural setting, it was very common to find one or two individuals possessing land surrounding the two or so acres of public ground on which the courthouse stood.⁵⁹ These landowners would obtain permits to operate taverns to accommodate those working at the courthouse, as well as residents of the county. Such is the case with Boykin's Tavern.

Boykin's Tavern is the earliest building within the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex. Court was held within the tavern while the courthouse was under construction at the turn-of-the-19th century. For nearly 175 years, the building acted as a social gathering place, a place for political and court discussions, and played an essential role in the county's government and political history. Other surviving representations of early courthouse taverns of domestic origin are scattered across Virginia's landscape. Among these are Boyd's Tavern (NRHP-listed 1970) in Boydton, Mecklenburg County; Hanover Tavern (NRHP-listed 1971) in Hanover County; Eastville Inn (DHR #214-0040) in Northampton County; Hughlett's Tavern (DHR #066-0009) in Heathsville, Northumberland County; and a tavern at New Kent. Within Isle of Wight County was the 1750 Courthouse in Smithfield, the county seat during the last half of the 18th century. Each of these representations had "domestic plans typical of the late colonial and Early National Periods."⁶⁰

Criterion C: Architecture

Arrangement and Landscape Design

The Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex retains a high degree of architectural integrity with 7 contributing resources and only 2 noncontributing elements. The complex is an exemplary

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representation of rural county seats established during the Early National Period, when courthouse grounds rarely presented an orderly appearance. As prior noted, it was common throughout Virginia to find a courthouse adjacent to a private tavern or inn. In the instance of Isle of Wight, Boykin's Tavern was in operation prior to the construction of the courthouse. Since the colonial period, the courthouse green was a vital element of the courthouse grounds in Virginia. In rural settings throughout both the colonial and Early National Period, buildings such as the jail, clerk's office, stables, etc. were haphazardly strewn throughout the courthouse grounds. The siting of the Isle of Wight courthouse, enjoying a considerable setback from the highway, shows a deliberate attempt to create an early semblance of a courthouse green in front of the courthouse. The later, 1820 construction of the Clerk's Office fronting west towards the green demonstrates a further attempt to create a distinct public greenspace at the heart of the courthouse grounds. Despite these early efforts to formalize the Courthouse Complex, by the early-20th century, an apparently random distribution of secondary buildings and the various dirt pathways (*see* Figure 1) continued to evoke a more casual layout characteristic of rural county seats established during the Early National Period in Virginia.

Landscaping elements introduced to the grounds during the early- to mid-20th century created greater cohesion and a more visually appealing civic space. The brick path leading to the Clerk's Office appears to be contemporaneous with the 1937 addition to the building, as well as the decorative brick landscaping wall (Resource 4) lining the southeastern edge of the former courthouse green (Figure 2). The wide brick pathway leading to the courthouse is believed to be associated with mid-20th century improvements to the grounds. This included the placement of the bronze plaque (Resource 6) in 1957 at the center of the pathway. Although the original courthouse green is no longer a lively gathering space for county residents conducting business and socializing, it is illustrative of the ever-evolving courthouse campus since its establishment during the Early National Period through the mid-20th century.

The Confederate Monument was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy on May 30, 1905 (Photograph 40). The monument is similar to another such monument in the region – the Confederate Monument at the Southampton County Courthouse in Courtland. Similar engravings include the seal and monogram of the Confederate States of America, the date of the Civil War and the phrase, "Our Confederate Dead." Unlike the Southampton County example that features a quadrangle shaft, the shaft of the Isle of Wight monument is octagonal. The stone soldier topping the Isle of Wight monument faces toward the highway and brief engravings are found on all faces of the octagonal shaft.

It is unclear when the greenspace presently surrounding the Confederate Monument was introduced to the courthouse grounds. It is probable that it evolved naturally between the highway and the ingress and egress of traffic to the courthouse. It likely initially served as a place for hitching posts, carriages, etc. When the Confederate Monument was erected, the grassed green became a focal point of the complex, providing an attractive entrance to the courthouse grounds. The monument green is not believed to have served as a formal courthouse green, but more so as a landscape element to enhance the Confederate Monument at its center.

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As demonstrated in the early-20th century photograph of the Courthouse Complex (Figure 1), the green was surrounded by a circular fence.

Architectural Trends

Not only is the distribution of buildings and the overall layout of the courthouse grounds reflective upon early Virginia county seats within a rural setting, extant buildings portray incremental growth patterns consistent with residential architecture and longstanding government complexes. Materials, building scale, and form of each building, including later additions and modifications, all speak towards the various building campaigns and architectural trends that distinguish the Courthouse Complex as a long-serving county seat for more than 250 years.

Boykin's Tavern survives as an excellent illustration of an Early National Period plantation house that began as a modest, late Colonial period, 1-story double-pile form and evolved over time as a result of new ownership, growing families, and increased economic prosperity. What survives is a an impressive residence exhibiting a mixture of mid -18th century to early-20th century design elements seen in its various massings and stylistic elements. Similarly, the early-19th century courthouse and Clerk's office underwent various phases of expansions, including extensive modifications in 1954 that coincides with the New Dominion period of government expansions and modernization. Further, the range of distinctive elements represented throughout the courthouse complex speaks towards evolving stylistic trends in the region.

The **Federal style** emerged in the years following the American Revolution and is predominantly associated with Virginia's high-style architecture. The style is characterized by a more subtle and delicate interpretation of Classical architecture. The style dominated new construction and is reflected in both major cities as well as country houses.⁶¹ Among the defining elements of the Federal style include a central-passage plan, elongated, attenuated columns and other forms, balanced and symmetrical facades, semi-circular or elliptical fanlight transoms, sidelights at entrances, solid stone lintels with keystones, and Flemish bond and 3-course and 5-course American bond, among other stylistic embellishments.⁶²

The Federal-style design of the historic buildings within the Courthouse Complex is primarily achieved through the design, or form, of each building. In particular is the symmetry and formality in form, as well as the brick exterior of the courthouse and Clerk's Office. Boykin's Tavern adheres to the overall form of traditional Federal-style residences; however, its exterior lacks character-defining stylistic adornment. Unlike most traditional interpretations of the Federal style, Boykin's Tavern lacks arched or elliptical fanlights and windows, elaborate door surrounds, or the use of delicate design elements such as swags. Its interior, however, is noted for possessing Federal-style embellishments. Boykin's Tavern is primarily characterized by its double-pile massing with rooms arranged around a central passage.

In keeping with Federal-style ideals, principal civic buildings in the early-19th century Tidewater region of Virginia tended to be brick construction due to the absence of substantial outcroppings of building stone.⁶³ As such, the Isle of Wight County Courthouse (1801), Clerk's Office (1820),

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and original courthouse jail (not extant) exhibit Flemish bond brick exteriors. In most instances where the county seat is established within a rural setting during the Early National Period, the courthouse was the only building to exhibit any degree of architectural distinction. The courthouse was often designed to portray a symbol of power of the law and authority.⁶⁴ On the other hand, subsidiary buildings, such as the jail and Clerk's Office, tended to be utilitarian in form, with little, if any, architectural distinction. Although the historic subsidiary buildings and jail are no longer extant, the Isle of Wight County Courthouse survives as the most prominent civic edifice on the courthouse grounds.

Both the Courthouse and the Clerk's Office exhibit the symmetry and form associated with Federally-inspired civic architecture. Unlike its arcaded predecessor in Smithfield, the courthouse built by Francis Boykin in 1801 is modest in design and form, due, in part, to the fact that Boykin himself funded its construction. The original, front-gabled massing with symmetrical façade and multi-pane, double-hung sash windows is characteristic of Federal-style civic buildings from the Early National Period. Similarly, the 1820 Clerk's Office depicts modest, Federal-style elements. Here again, its Federal-inspired design is distinguished by its form rather than stylistic embellishments. Its Flemish bond brick exterior, simple wood window and door surrounds, and overall lack of stylistic design elements is characteristic of secondary civic buildings within rural courthouse grounds dating from the late-colonial period through the Early National Period. The subsequent additions to the Clerk's Office in 1822 and 1937 mimic the appearance and design of the original building.

Neo-Classical Revival (1890-1940), also referred to as a Late Classical Revival, is a broad term encompassing all varieties of classically-inspired architecture in America during this period. Among the styles it draws influence from include Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival, and the Beaux-Arts style. The style emphasized "stylistic purity, academic correctness, and an adherence to historic period models."⁶⁵ The Virginia Department of Historic Resources characterizes the style as "anything classical or vaguely classical built between 1890 and 1940."⁶⁶ The most character-defining feature of a Neo-Classical Revival building is a façade dominated by a pedimented portico with Classical columns. Lunettes in gable ends are common, as are fanlight transoms, masonry cladding, low-pitched roof, multi-pane, a dentiled cornice, and double-hung sash windows, among others.

The 1902 building campaign of Boykin's Tavern considerably changed its exterior appearance. The Federal-style formality of the double-pile addition received a tremendous update with the addition of the upper half-story and the entry portico. The early-20th century enhancements to Boykin's Tavern exhibit modest interpretations of the Neo-Classical Revival design elements, particularly the pedimented porch, Classically-inspired columns, and a dentiled cornice. The application of a full-height entry porch flanked by a single-story full-width porch is relatively uncommon to Classical Revival design; however, this dual-level entry porch was primarily confined to the years between 1895 and 1915.⁶⁷

By the late-19th century, the *Colonial Revival* movement had a tremendous influence on all types of architecture throughout Virginia, including civic buildings. Although the movement was

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inspired by classical precedents, it also employed an attempt to evoke the nation's colonial and early republican eras. The architectural designs of Thomas Jefferson, often referred to as Jeffersonian classicism, had additional influence on the Colonial Revival style. Jefferson believed that classical architectural elements best conveyed the democratic ideals of the nation.⁶⁸ Thus, the 1954 enhancements to the courthouse, including the prominent entry portico and the arcaded pathway, embraced the Colonial Revival-style, creating a sense of cohesion across the courthouse grounds. The use of the Colonial Revival style further demonstrates the County's desire to maintain its Early National Period aesthetic. It is no surprise, then, that the School Administration Building, constructed in 1960, was designed in the Colonial Revival style.

Summary

The Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex is the longest serving courthouse complex in Isle of Wight County. Its overall layout and arrangement of buildings, public spaces, monuments, and landscaping elements reflect its continued use and evolution from its Early National Period beginnings. It is distinguished as a county seat established in a rural setting in tidewater Virginia, and its surviving landscape and resources embrace speak towards evolving trends in building design and style, and various periods of county history. Mid-20th century additions and alterations maintain the historic aesthetic of rural courthouse grounds and architecture. Today, the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex continues to evoke its early beginnings, long-standing use and evolution, architectural distinction, and significance to the history of Isle of Wight County.

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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

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designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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, Richmond, VA; Isle of Wight County Museum, Isle of Wight, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID: 046-0005

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.66 acres

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: 36.908330 | Longitude: -76.709480 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.908810 | Longitude: -76.708990 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.908590 | Longitude: -76.708130 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.908160 | Longitude: -76.707420 |
| 5. Latitude: 36.907490 | Longitude: -76.708410 |
| 6. Latitude: 36.907560 | Longitude: -76.709180 |
| 7. Latitude: 36.907890 | Longitude: -76.709460 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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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 true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map/Photo Key (1 of 2). The boundary of the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex is irregular in shape, with the courthouse green and Monument Circle to the southeast, Boykin's Tavern and grounds to the west, and the heart of the historic courthouse campus to the northeast. The district runs from the northeast corner of the School Administration Building in a southeasterly direction to the northeast intersection of Monument Circle and Courthouse Highway. It then travels approximately 340 feet in a southwesterly direction along said highway until reaching the western edge of Monument Circle. The boundary then follows along the western side of Monument Circle approximately 150 feet, then southwesterly approximately 250 feet near the eastern edge of the woodlands. The boundary follows along the tree line in a northwesterly direction for approximately 350 feet. The district boundary then follows along the grassed yard behind Boykin's Tavern, travelling in a northeasterly direction across a paved drive that circles the heart of the courthouse complex. The district boundary then runs along the southern edge of the same paved drive until reaching the point of beginning.

The boundary includes Monument Circle, and the entirety of Tax Parcel 38-01-034 as recorded by Isle of Wight County. With the exception of a gravel parking lot at the northern end, all of Parcel 38-01-034C is included within the boundaries. Parcel 38-01-034, which encompasses the courthouse, Clerk's office, and School Administration Building, is also located within the boundaries, with exception to the portion of the parcel occupied by the paved drive and land to the northeast.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the district were selected to include resources directly associated with the early beginnings of the county's fourth and final seat of government. Monument Circle, the courthouse green, and Confederate Monument are further included as they contribute to the overall historic setting and evolution of the Courthouse Complex. Boundaries generally follow those of the parcels within the district, while excluding modern, noncontributing elements such as parking lots and the paved drive surrounding the core of the historic complex. As drawn, the district's boundary captures both the historic setting and resources of

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this impressive complex, as well as the longtime evolution of the courthouse facilities from the late-18th century through mid-20th century.

11. Form Prepared By

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telephone: 6404-694-2066
date: August 30, 2018

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

The following information is common to all photographs:

Photo Log

Name of Property: Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex
City or Vicinity: Isle of Wight
County: Isle of Wight State: Virginia
Photographer: Jaime L. Destefano, MSHP
Date Photographed: February 14, 2018

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

1 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_001
View. Overview of Courthouse Complex, camera facing northwest

2 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_002

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- View. Overview of Courthouse Complex, camera facing northwest
- 3 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_003
View. Courthouse, façade (southeast elevation) showing central 1801 section with 1954 portico (flanking arcades date to 1987), camera facing northwest
- 4 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_004
View. Courthouse, façade (southeast elevation), showing central 1801 section with 1954 portico (flanking arcades date to 1987), camera facing northwest
- 5 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_005
View. Courthouse, southwest oblique, showing 1987 southwest addition and arcade at left, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_006
View. Courthouse, façade, covered opening revealing original brick wall beneath 1954 brick veneer, camera facing north
- 7 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_007
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Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex

Name of Property

Isle of Wight County, VA

County and State

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Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex

Name of Property

Isle of Wight County, VA

County and State

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Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex

Name of Property

Isle of Wight County, VA

County and State

- 43 of 48. VA_IsleofWightCounty_CourthouseComplex_043
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Figure 3. Clerk's Office, prior to construction of east addition in 1937
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum

Figure 4. Postcard of Isle of Wight County Courthouse and 1954 Addition (Right), c. 1955
Source: Keith Vincent, www.Courthousehistory.com

Figure 5. Postcard of Isle of Wight County Courthouse and 1954 Addition (Right), c. 1955
Source: Keith Vincent, www.Courthousehistory.com

Figure 6. Boykin's Tavern, 1932
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum

Figure 7. Boykin's Tavern, c. 1960
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum

Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex

Name of Property

Isle of Wight County, VA

County and State

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.

ENDNOTES

¹ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Staff, "Boykin's Tavern: National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, National Park Service, 19 June 1974. Research conducted since the 1974 NRHP listing has yielded more accurate information about the building's evolution.

² Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Staff, "Boykin's Tavern: National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, National Park Service, 19 June 1974.

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¹² John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995; p.27.

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¹⁷ Estelle Beale Seward, "Four County Courthouses?," *The Smithfield Times*, 2 December, 1970.

¹⁸ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993.

¹⁹ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 78.

²⁰ Order Book, 1814-1816; p.177.

Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex
Name of Property

Isle of Wight County, VA
County and State

- ²¹ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 91.
- ²² Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 93-96.
- ²³ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 84.
- ²⁴ John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995; p.65.
- ²⁵ John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995; p.66. Research of local primary sources for evidence of slave auctions at the county courthouse was not within the scope of the present nomination project.
- ²⁶ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 174-176..
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- ³² Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 254-256.
- ³³ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 254-256.
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- ³⁵ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 274-276.
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- ³⁸ Marianne E. Julienne and Brent Tarter, "Establishment of the Public School System in Virginia," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, Library of Virginia, <https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org>, 2016; accessed 29 January 2019.
- ³⁹ Susan Ciance Salvatore, New Kent School and George W. Watkins School, National Historic Landmark nomination form (2001), Section 8, pp. 7, 10, 13-14, available online at https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR_to_transfer/PDFNoms/063-5011_GeorgeWatkinsSchool_2001_Nomination_NHL.pdf.
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Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex
Name of Property

Isle of Wight County, VA
County and State

- ⁴² Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; pages 83-92.
- ⁴³ Melina Bezirdjian and Lena Sweeten McDonald, *New Dominion Virginia, Architectural Style Guide*, Virginia Department of Natural Resources, 2014; p. 7.
- ⁴⁴ Melina Bezirdjian and Lena Sweeten McDonald, *New Dominion Virginia, Architectural Style Guide*, Virginia Department of Natural Resources, 2014; p. 8.
- ⁴⁵ Helen Haverty King, *Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993; page 84-85.
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- ⁴⁷ Boykin's Tavern Museum, brochure, prepared by Isle of Wight County Museum.
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- ⁴⁹ Boykin's Tavern Museum, brochure, prepared by Isle of Wight County Museum.
- ⁵⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁵¹ Boykin's Tavern Museum, brochure, prepared by Isle of Wight County Museum.
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- ⁵³ Boykin's Tavern Museum, brochure, prepared by Isle of Wight County Museum.
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- ⁵⁵ Boykin's Tavern Museum, brochure, prepared by Isle of Wight County Museum.
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- ⁶⁴ Lounsbury 2005, p.315.
- ⁶⁵ Chris Novelli, Melina Bezirdjian, Calder Loth, and Lena Sweeten McDonald, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*, The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2015; p.112.
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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Isle of Wight County Courthouse
Complex

Name of Property
Isle of Wight County, VA

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 1. Courthouse Complex and Confederate Monument, c.1910
From a Framed Photograph in Courthouse Building



Figure 2. Isle of Wight County Courthouse (left) and the Clerk's Office (right), 1937
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Historic Figures Page 2

Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex
Name of Property
Isle of Wight County, VA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 3. Clerk’s Office, prior to construction of east addition in 1937
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum

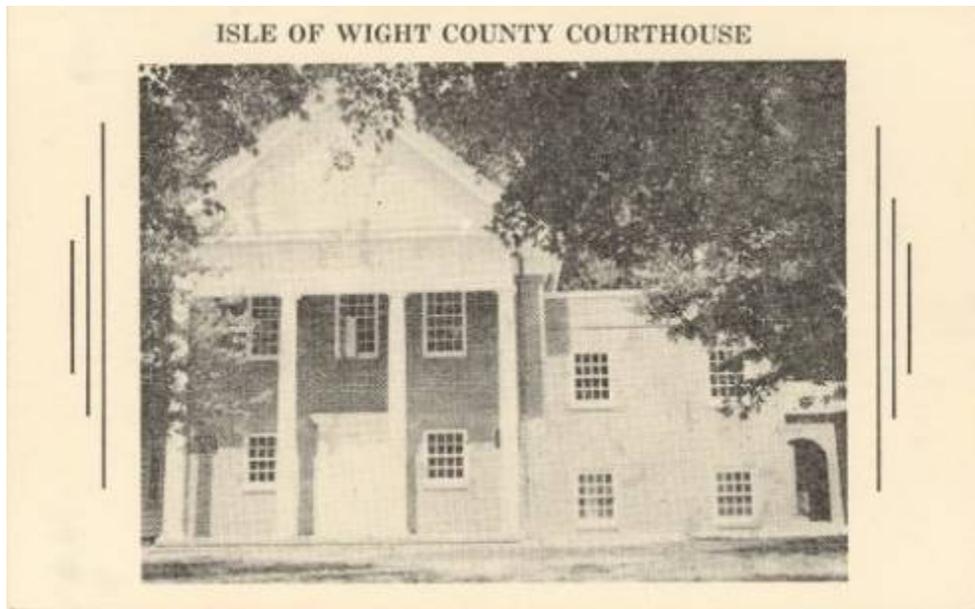


Figure 4. Postcard of Isle of Wight County Courthouse and 1954 Addition (Right), c.1955
Source: Keith Vincent, www.Courthousehistory.com

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Historic Figures Page 3

Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex
Name of Property
Isle of Wight County, VA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

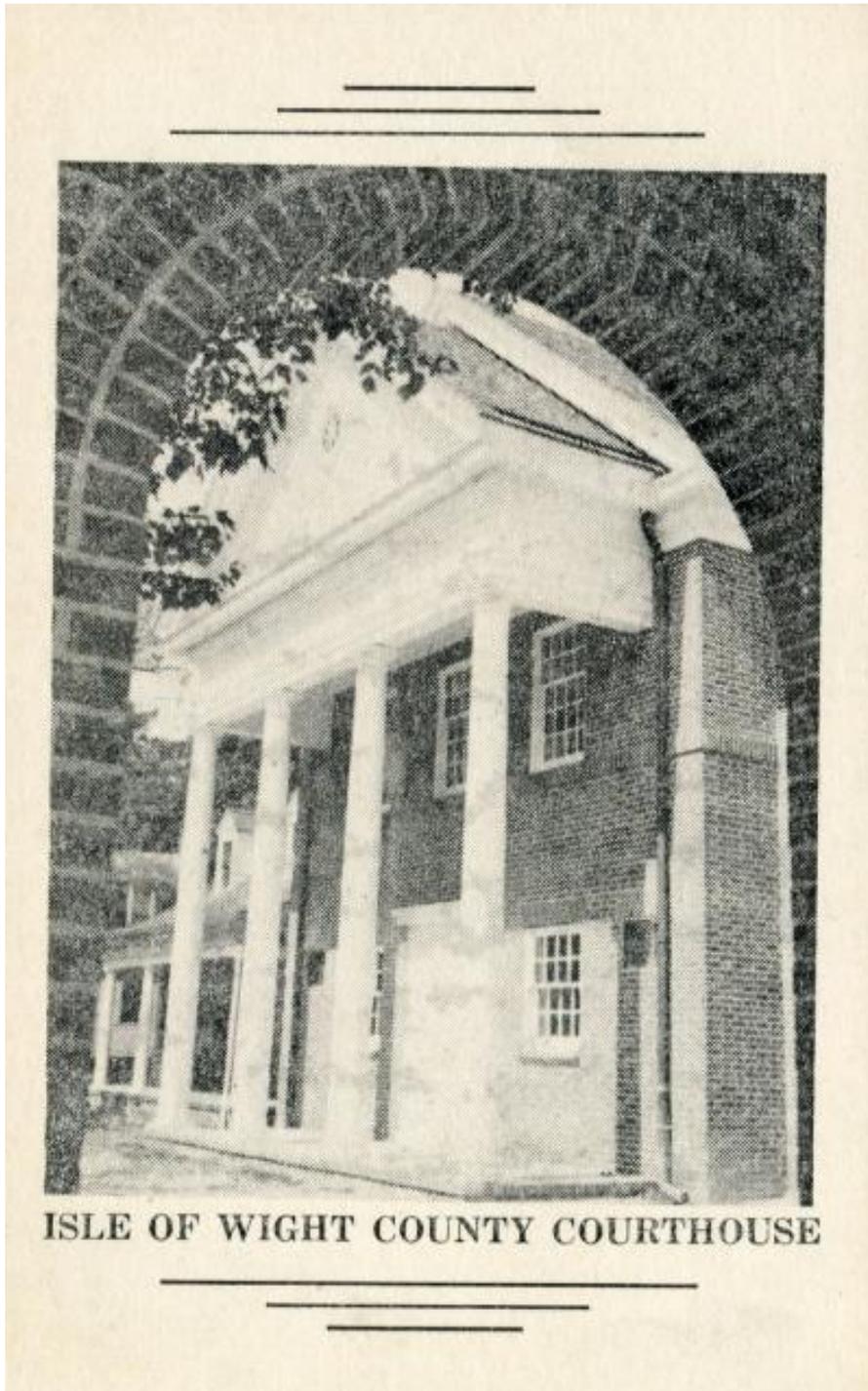


Figure 5. Postcard of Isle of Wight County Courthouse and 1954 Addition (Right), c.1955
Source: Keith Vincent, www.Courthousehistory.com

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Isle of Wight County Courthouse
Complex

Name of Property
Isle of Wight County, VA

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 6. Boykin's Tavern, 1932
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum



Figure 7. Boykin's Tavern, c.1960
Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Museum

LOCATION MAP

Isle of Wight County Courthouse
Complex

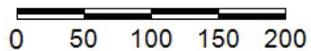
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DHR No. 046-0005

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Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet



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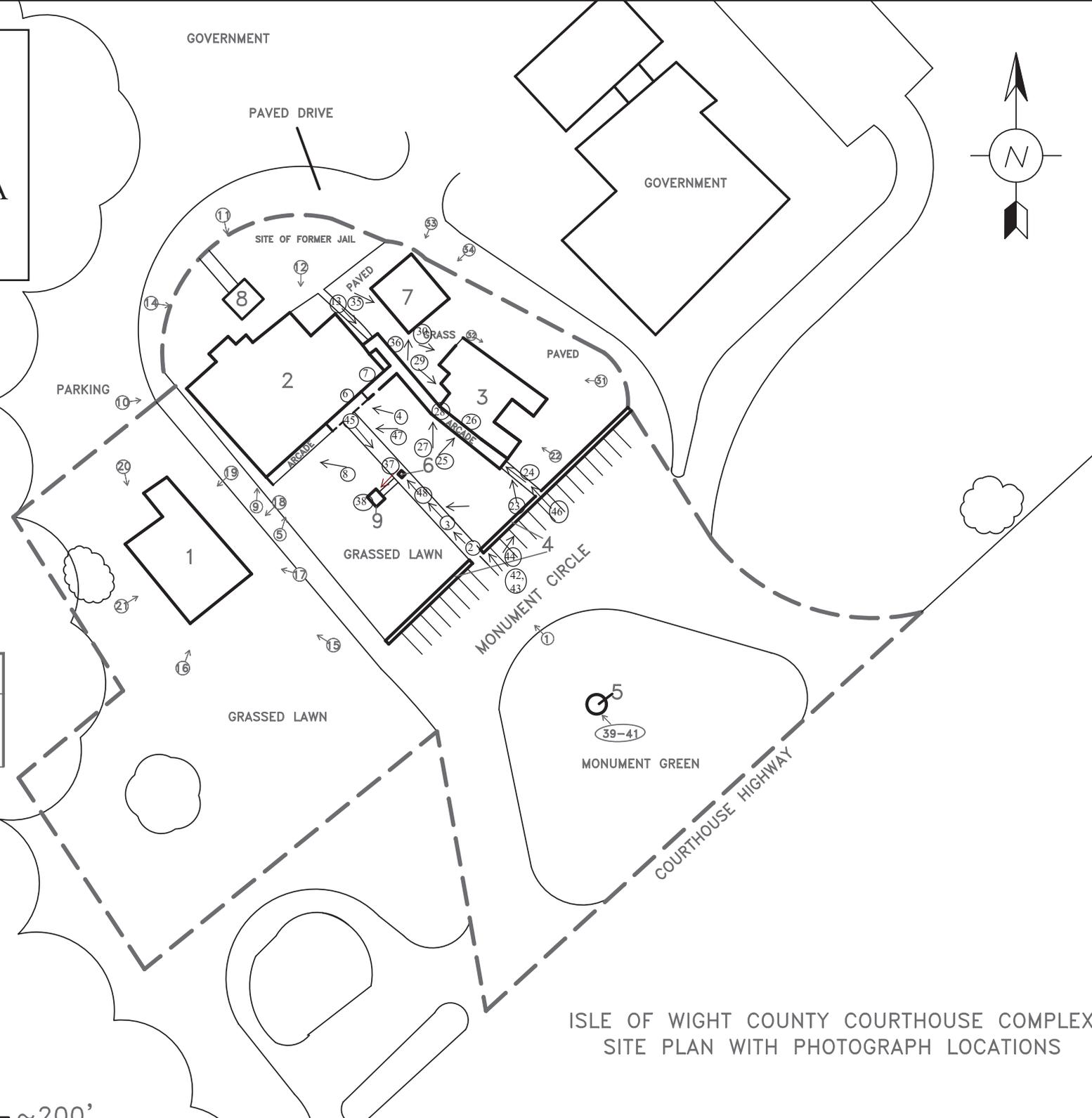
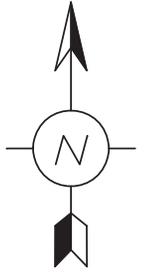
Date: 5/31/2019

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.

**SKETCH MAP/
PHOTO KEY (1 of 2)**

Isle of Wight County
 Courthouse Complex
 Isle of Wight County, VA
 DHR No. 046-0005



LEGEND

① → PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS

--- DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

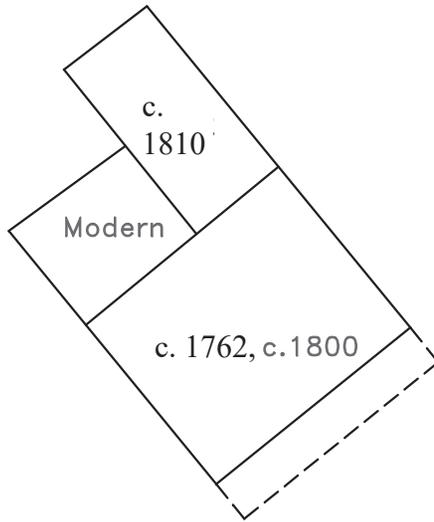
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  - 2 COURTHOUSE, 1801, C
  - 3 CLERK'S OFFICE, 1820, C
  - 4 BRICK WALL, 1937, C
  - 5 CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, 1905, C
  - 6 BRONZE MARKER, 1957, C
  - 7 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1960, C
  - 8 FRAME SHED, c.1980s, NC
  - 9 BELL HOUSE, 1984, NC

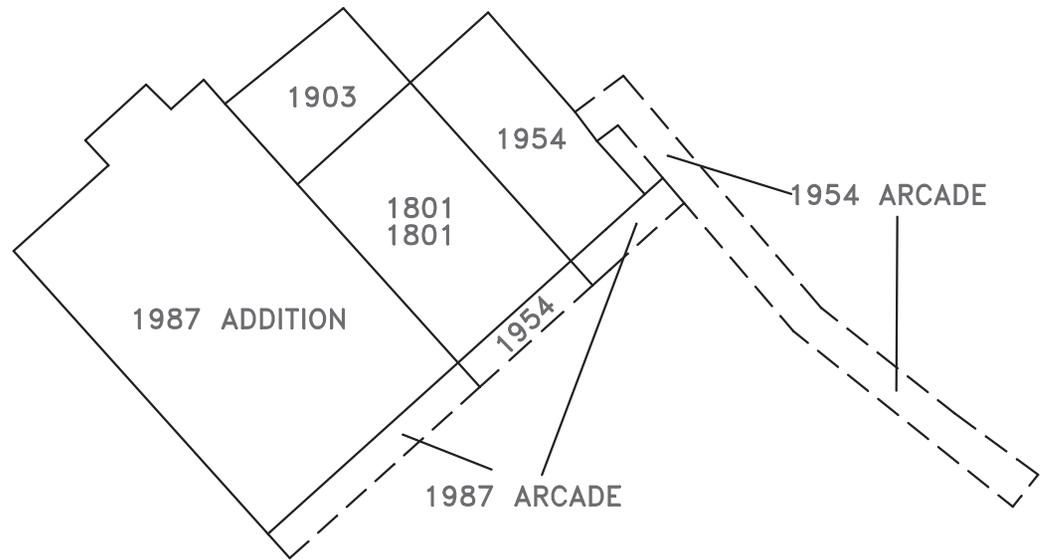
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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMPLEX  
 SITE PLAN WITH PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS

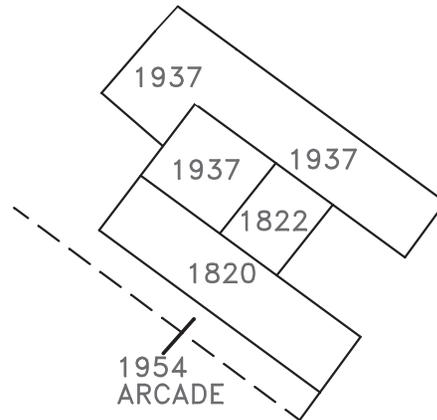
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COURTHOUSE

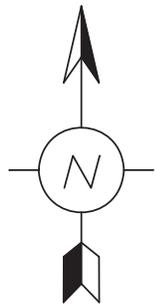


CLERK'S OFFICE



**BUILDING PLANS**

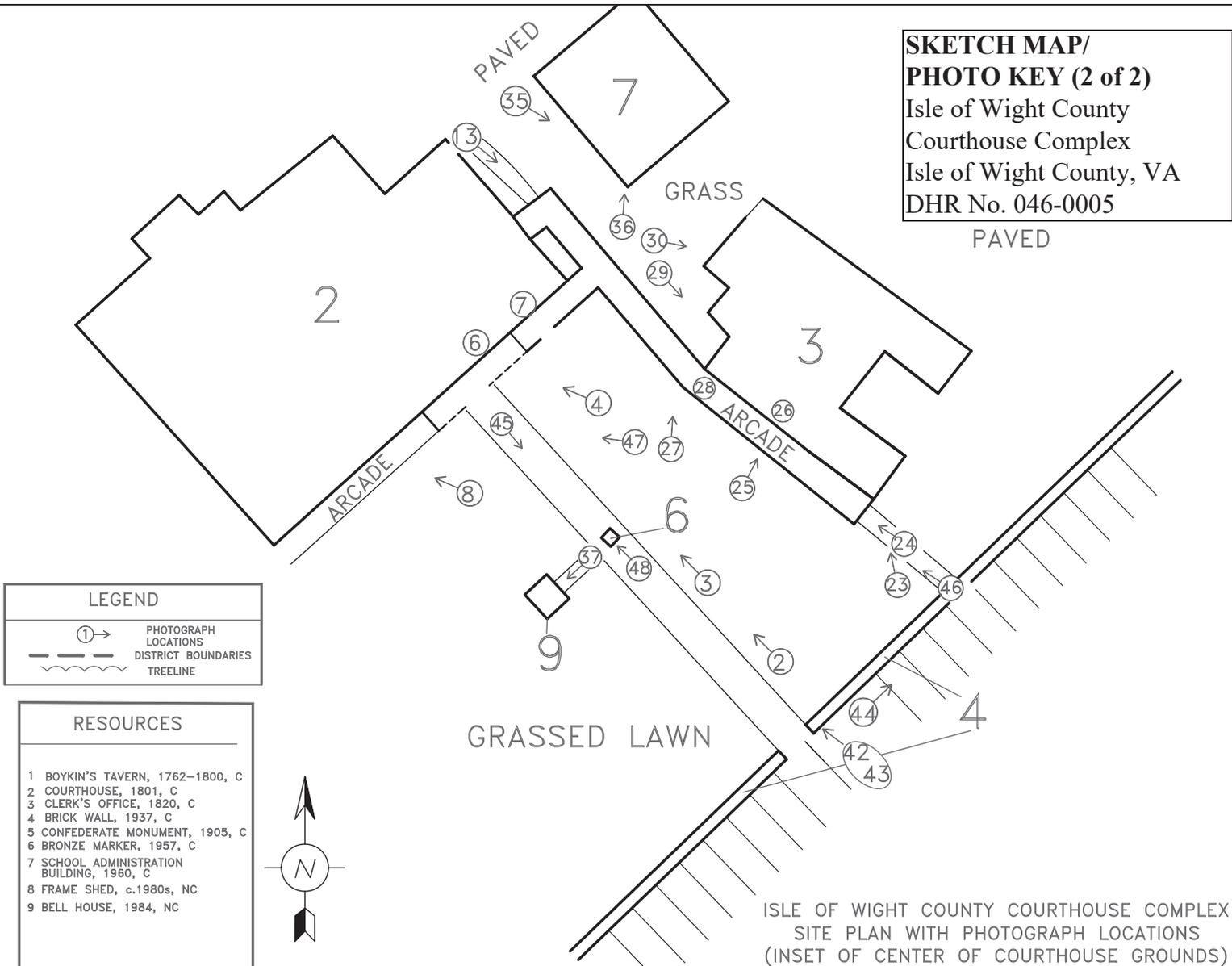
Isle of Wight County  
 Courthouse Complex  
 Isle of Wight County, VA  
 DHR No. 046-0005



NOT TO SCALE

SKETCH PLANS OF  
 PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS SHOWING  
 VARIOUS ADDITIONS AND DATES  
 OF CONSTRUCTION

**SKETCH MAP/  
PHOTO KEY (2 of 2)**  
Isle of Wight County  
Courthouse Complex  
Isle of Wight County, VA  
DHR No. 046-0005

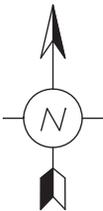


**LEGEND**

- ① → PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS
- - - DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
- ~~~~~ TREELINE

**RESOURCES**

- 1 BOYKIN'S TAVERN, 1762-1800, C
- 2 COURTHOUSE, 1801, C
- 3 CLERK'S OFFICE, 1820, C
- 4 BRICK WALL, 1937, C
- 5 CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, 1905, C
- 6 BRONZE MARKER, 1957, C
- 7 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1960, C
- 8 FRAME SHED, c.1980s, NC
- 9 BELL HOUSE, 1984, NC



ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMPLEX  
SITE PLAN WITH PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS  
(INSET OF CENTER OF COURTHOUSE GROUNDS)