

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Eyreville

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

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3259 Eyreville Drive

City or town: Cheriton State: VA County: Northampton

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☒ X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C X D

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

LANDSCAPE: Garden

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

LANDSCAPE: Garden

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

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

OTHER: T-plan

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

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

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Eyreville is located on the west side of U.S. Route 13/Charles M. Lankford, Jr., Memorial Highway north of the towns of Cape Charles and Cheriton and south of Eastville in Northampton County, Virginia. The bayside farm occupies a flat neck (Eyreville Neck) that extends west into Cherrystone Inlet, which opens onto Chesapeake Bay. The neck is bounded on the north by Old Castle Creek and on the south by Eyreville Creek. The property historically encompassed 1,000 acres, which over time was divided into several parcels; the nominated property consists of an approximate 6.5-acre portion of the 17-acre waterfront parcel that includes the historic dwelling, several outbuildings, an ornamental garden, and a recorded multi-component archaeological site. The property, accessed from the main highway by a mile-long driveway, is heavily wooded with numerous large, mature hardwood and evergreen trees and shrubs surrounding the historic dwelling. Brick walkways extend around the house and the paved driveway circles around the front (south) of the house. The surrounding farmland includes stands of woodland and open, cultivated fields. Eyreville's intact archaeological features and standing architectural resources make it one of the most significant properties on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The archaeological features discovered to date, including the remains of two possible post-in-ground structures (c. 1630-c. 1637) and two brick dwelling sites (c. 1657- c. 1658 and c. 1682), have yielded many artifacts that relate to seventeenth-century trade with local Native Americans, as well as English and Dutch interests. Pipes, beads, ceramics, coins, bricks, hardware, and other artifacts attest to the social and economic status and commercial activities of the site's inhabitants. All features excavated were previously undisturbed and retain a very high level of integrity. Artifacts recovered at the Eyreville site confirm it as one of the earliest colonial sites to be excavated on the Delaware/Maryland/Virginia (Delmarva) peninsula to date.

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The primary standing architectural resource at Eyreville is the evolved two-and-a-half-story, brick dwelling that consists of three distinct sections built in 1800, 1806, and 1839, and reflects Federal-period architectural influences and later Greek Revival- and Colonial Revival-style additions and alterations. In the 1940s, the construction of a brick colonnade connecting to a natatorium was added to the northwest end of the house and additional vernacular domestic outbuildings and a brick oyster house also were constructed on the property. The brick mansion house at Eyreville attests to the nineteenth-century social status of the owners (the Eyre family) and can be compared to other Eastern Shore dwellings of the period. The dwelling and its associated outbuildings represent a compelling history of two centuries of prosperous agricultural production and occupation by notable Eastern Shore families. The twentieth-century alterations reflect popular architectural trends of the period and confirm the property as a center of significant social activity. The architectural resources retain good overall integrity. The nominated property consists of ten contributing resources: seven buildings, two sites, and one structure.

Narrative Description

Landscape and Setting

Eyreville is located in Northampton County on Virginia's Eastern Shore and stands eight miles north of the town of Cape Charles and about two miles south of Eastville, the county seat. The property occupies Eyreville Neck, which is bounded on the north by Old Castle Creek, on the south by Eyreville Creek, and on the west by Cherrystone Inlet and Chesapeake Bay beyond. Savage Neck, which extends south from Eastville, lies directly west of Eyreville across the inlet. Eyreville Neck and the surrounding acreage remain rural in character with much of the land in cultivation or in woodland. The terrain is nearly flat, but slopes gently towards the water. Several historic properties dating from the eighteenth century are located in the vicinity of Eyreville including NRHP-eligible Old Castle (VDHR #065-0020, early to mid-1700s) to the north, Pleasant Prospect (VDHR #065-0040, c. 1750) to the west on Savage Neck, and, most notably, the National Historic Landmark (NHL) property of Eyre Hall (VDHR #065-0008, c. 1759) to the south across Eyreville Creek. The historic ownerships of Eyre Hall and Eyreville also are intertwined and discussed in Section 8.

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

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

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the farmland to the front (south) of the house. The fenced curtilage is heavily planted with a mix of hardwood, evergreen, and ornamental trees and shrubs.

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



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

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Extant Dwelling

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

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

Period I (1800)

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Period II (1806)

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

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



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

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

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

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Period III (1839)

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

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

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

The footprint of the Period III house is 60-feet 4-inches wide by 27-feet 3-inches deep. The house has a center passage, one-pile plan. The center hall is approximately 15-feet wide with a 12-foot ceiling height. An elliptical arch in the center hall visually separates the south end of the hall from the north end, which connects to the Period I house and the stairhall to the east; a similar element is used at Eyre Hall to divide the entry hall and stair hall, however, at Eyreville, there are no stairs in the center passage. The hyphen was built as part of the 1839 house to unify the various sections of the dwelling. The arch consists of engaged fluted Ionic pilasters, a molded arch with a bull's eye keystone, and paneled reveals on the sides and the underside of the arch. The doors at the north end of the hall connect to the Period I house (noted above). The opening features a surround that echoes the details of the front (south) entrance and holds a set of wood double-leaf doors detailed with three horizontally oriented rectangular panels at the top and a vertically oriented rectangular panel at the bottom (similar to others in the Period III house). Wood side panels flank the doors

² Lounsbury, 112.

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and the entire opening is enframed by Ionic pilasters that support a wide, molded arch with a bull's eye block at the top. The arch frames the semi-circular fanlight over the door opening and side panels.



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

Doors on the east and west sides of the hall are detailed with molded casings, bull's eye corner blocks, and deep paneled reveals. Other details include a tall, molded baseboard, a wide dado rail, and a wall molding that extends to a soffit band. During the Webster ownership, an elevator was installed in the southeast corner of the hall (Figure 6).

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

On the south side of the hallway arch, the side doors open into the parlor (east) and library (west); on the north side of the arch, the doors lead to the stairhall on the east and a bathroom on the west (added in the 1940s).

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Basement

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

Period IV (1904-1942)

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

On the interior, Nottingham replaced the original woodwork in the Period I (1800) house and reconfigured the floor plan. Eastern Shore historian Ralph T. Whitelaw notes that "the present front porches were added by Mr. Nottingham, with some further changes by the present owners

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[the Websters].³ The two-story, three-bay-wide front porch that extends from the façade features fluted Doric wood columns on each level and is covered by a shed roof of standing-seam metal. The porch's first-floor level is accessed by a set of brick steps in the center bay. The bays of the upper-level sleeping porch are enclosed with triple sets of nine-over-nine windows, wood panels, and a wood balustrade. Formerly, a balustrade also ran along the edge of the porch roof.

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

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

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

An interior door from the kitchen wing accesses the enclosed passageway leading to the ballroom. The exterior walls are of brick construction laid in a Flemish bond with brick pilasters between the building bays and a copper-clad dome roof covers the passage, the length of which extends west then turns north (Figure 10). Wood casement windows on the south and west sides light the passage. The interior features a terra cotta-tiled floor and a flat ceiling clad with wood boards. A similar corridor extends from the back of Kendall Grove connecting the house to the kitchen and

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

⁴ Dr. Lounsbury notes that the toilets installed in Eyreville are stamped "December 1941," just prior to the bombing at Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II. These toilets would be some of the last fixtures manufactured before civilian production was halted and American companies turned their efforts to supplying the military with needed materials. Carl Lounsbury, Personal Communication, April 17, 2023. A historical photograph taken before Webster's 1940s renovations shows the west side addition to the center hyphen as a single-story, shed-roofed brick wing. It is presumed that Webster replaced that one-story wing and added the existing two-story addition, which is covered by a metal-clad shed roof adjoining the slate-clad gable roof of the two-story center hyphen (c. 1839).

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at Old Castle, where the length of the corridor turns in an elbow shape like that at Eyreville. Eastern Shore historian H. Chandlee Forman refers to this element as an “elongated curtain” and states that it is “a really distinctive feature of the Northampton County area” that recalls the medieval custom of building in “ranges” or walled passages. At Eyreville, the twentieth-century designer likely was referencing this historical regional form as seen at the aforementioned houses.⁵

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

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



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

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

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

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

INVENTORY

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

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

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Secondary Resources associated with the Extant Dwelling

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

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

Several outbuildings added to the property about 1942 line the driveway north and northeast of the main dwelling. The **Doll House** is a small, one-story, single-room frame building located almost directly north of the pool house. The building stands on a brick pier foundation, is clad with vinyl siding, and is covered by a metal-clad, front-facing gable roof. The entrance, located on the south end of the building, is protected by a gable-roofed entry porch that features square wood supports. The building is known as the Doll House because it was purpose-built for display of Jane Hunter Ferguson Webster's doll collection. Historical photographs (c. 1960) show the interior of the building finished with wood flooring, beaded-board wainscot, vertical board wall covering, and a simple wood fireplace mantel on the north wall (see Additional Documentation 9 and 10). Windows in the building have nine-over-nine wood sash.

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

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

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

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

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

Architectural Integrity Statement

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

The evolved nature of the main dwelling—from 1800 to about 1942—has necessarily altered some features of the original 1800 house and the house's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Additions have mostly been sympathetic to the house's original character and Federal style, and primary materials (brick, slate, and wood) remain evident through all construction periods. The floor plan also has been altered, but reflects the evolution of the dwelling across 150 years and these changes have gained their own historical significance. Notable changes include construction of the porches on the Period III section of the house, which was undertaken by early-twentieth century owner W. Dixon Nottingham. Nottingham constructed the front (south) entrance porch and the east side screened-in porch. It may have been during his ownership that new window openings were added to the east and west side elevations of the Period I section of the house, which is evidenced by the altered brickwork at those locations.⁶

Other alterations and additions were undertaken in the 1940s by Guy L. Webster, including removal of original woodwork in the Period I house and the addition of an infill wing on the west side of the center portion of the house. Webster also added the shed-roofed kitchen wing on the north side of the house and the connecting corridor and dependencies on the north/northwest side of the house. It may have been at that time that the house roofs were clad with the present slate shingles. While

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

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substantial, these alterations and additions do not significantly affect the main house's overall integrity of materials and workmanship.

The present physical condition of the house is fair to good. Exterior brick walls show evidence of repointing efforts and patching of bricks are evident in the walls. On the interior, most woodwork and all mantels appear to be intact. Because the house has not been occupied for some years, the plaster walls and ceilings are in need of maintenance. The current owner has replaced several damaged, large (12" by 14") window panes with hand-blown panes from the Blenko Glass Company and has replicated the original Schumacher wallpaper in the front parlor. Overall, however, the interior floor plan, the building, and its foundations appear sound. Sections of the dependencies have been occupied in recent years. In 2020, a fire in the pool house damaged the interior of the dependency and some of its structure.

Archaeological Site Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The archaeological site 44NH0507 associated with the Eyreville property lies west of the main house site about midway to the shore of Cherrystone Inlet (Figure 11). Although trees have been planted in the yard, the site is of sufficient depth that the features have not been adversely disturbed. In 2016, the present owner notified VDHR archaeological staff of artifacts observed during the removal of a tree in the house yard. On-site observations noted numerous yellow (Dutch) bricks, pipe stems, coins, and ceramics. Subsequent subsurface excavations, all supervised by VDHR archaeologists, revealed the remains of three domestic dwelling sites, a possible storage pit or cellar, and a well that date from the early to late seventeenth century. The site has produced a prodigious array of artifacts from Native American pipes to English coins and Dutch-made bricks. The site retains excellent integrity and the features have produced artifacts dating only to the period of occupation, thus confirming intact stratified cultural levels at this site. Documentary research undertaken in support of the archaeological investigations has confirmed and expanded the understanding and identification of the artifacts and is discussed in more detail in Section 8.

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

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Figure 11. An aerial view of Eyreville with the Chesapeake Bay in the distance. The site of ongoing archaeological investigations is concentrated in the lawn between the main house (foreground) and the water. (VDHR, 2018)

Narrative Description of Site 44NH0507

The archaeological site associated with Eyreville (44NH0507) contains artifacts and features dating from the 1620s through the 1670s or 1680s. The environment and physical setting in which the archaeological site is located retains its domestic and agricultural character as it has been historically occupied for about 400 years. As noted, several mature trees and shrubs have been planted in the Eyreville house yard, but the archaeological deposits have not been extensively disturbed by cultivation or construction activities. The location along the shores of Cherrystone Inlet with its immediate access to Chesapeake Bay is intact and enhances the site's historic context and occupation as particularly related to the earliest English owner's occupation and immense success as a trader and merchant. Subsistence agriculture was undertaken on the surrounding farmland and agricultural industrial activities, such as tanning, also were conducted on the property. The present investigations and known sites, however, relate solely to the domestic occupation/house sites of the earliest English inhabitants. Thus far, no features have been identified that correspond to housing for indentured or enslaved occupants who are known, through historical records, to have been part of the Kendall (seventeenth century) and Eyre (nineteenth century) households.

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Site Features

The archaeological site corresponds to the period of occupation beginning with the property's ownership by John Howe, who was living on the Eastern Shore as early as 1623 and lived at the Eyreville property until his death in 1637. Implicit in that occupation of the land is that he must have constructed a house during the 1630s. The second owner, Edward Robins, held the land for only a few years until his death in 1640. It is in Robins's documents that the property is first referred to as "Newport House." Robins's brother, Obedience, oversaw the operations at the property until 1657, when William Kendall purchased 600 acres from Robins' daughters. Although Kendall arrived in the Virginia colony as an indentured servant, he eventually served several terms as a county commissioner, on the local courts, as a multiple-term burgess at Jamestown, and was speaker of that body a year before his death (1686). Kendall obtained the rank of Colonel in the local colonial militia and was a successful businessman and trader. He owned a tannery on the creek to the south of the property where he resided and by 1664, he owned several enslaved Africans⁸ (William, Charles, and Mingo) and a share in a ship. There is some documentary evidence suggesting that a ship may have been constructed at the Eyreville property as well. The subject property stayed in the Kendall family until 1797 when it was sold to the Eyre family, who then built the extant main house. This succession of ownership within only a few families with distinct and deep ties to the Eastern Shore and its retention into the twentieth century as a large-acreage property has contributed to the preservation of the archaeological site and the later architectural resources on the property.

VDHR has thus far has sponsored (in partnership with the Archeological Society of Virginia and the U.S. Forest Service's Passport in Time program) three field schools and conducted several additional investigations at the site. In May 2017, the first investigation consisted of excavation of 48 test pits (2.5-foot square). Excavation around the site of a fallen tree, where artifacts were first observed by the present owner, produced evidence of one, and possibly two, post-in-ground structures dating to the site's earliest period of historic English occupation, c. 1630-c. 1638. The footprint appears to correspond to a "Virginia House," a regional form that emerged in the Chesapeake region by the second quarter of the seventeenth century and reflected simplified

⁸ In colonial Virginia, enslavement applied only to Africans and persons of African descent. Africans who had been sold into slavery were transported to the Virginia colony via the international slave trade that then operated among Europe, Africa, and the North and South American colonies. Africans also could arrive in Virginia as indentured servants who, upon completion of their contract, were considered to be free with legal status roughly similar to that of White colonists (although their social status was inferior to that of White people). The legal framework for heritable, lifelong slavery developed in Virginia between 1619, when the first enslaved Africans arrived at the colony, and the late seventeenth century. Persons solely of European descent could be indentured but not enslaved (with the important difference being that indentured servitude lasted only for a contracted period), whereas Africans and individuals of mixed heritage whose lineage included Africans could be enslaved for life and, by the end of the seventeenth century, would inherit their birth mother's lifelong enslaved status.

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construction techniques built to serve immediate housing needs.⁹ There is also evidence of a filled cellar or pit related to a post-in-ground structure likely from the early years of occupation.¹⁰

In addition, the foundations of two larger brick structures have been uncovered that likely represent the houses built by Col. William Kendall at some point after 1657-1658 (referred to as the “old house” in historic records) and c. 1682 (referred to as the “new” house in historic records). One of the house sites measures 16-feet wide by 32-feet long with evidence of a bulkhead entrance to a cellar at the southwest corner and a finished stone-tiled floor in what was likely an “English basement” (see Figures 12, 13, and 14 and Additional Documentation 3 and 4) Another feature, identified by ground-penetrating radar and verified through subsurface testing, is a seventeenth-century well (see Additional Documentation 2).¹¹

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

⁹ Carl R. Lounsbury, “The Design Process” in *The Chesapeake House: Architectural Investigation by Colonial Williamsburg*, Cary Carson and Carl R. Lounsbury, eds. (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 67. Such earthfast building (i.e., lacking foundations) has been termed “impermanent architecture” due to its intentionally transitory nature built by English colonists for immediate shelter until their fortunes improved. “...many colonists, just starting out, regarded earthfast buildings as adequate for their immediate purposes, but inferior to those they expected to construct later.” Cary Carson, Norman F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Garry Wheeler Stone, and Dell Upton, “Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies,” *Winterthur Portfolio* Vol. 16, No. 2/3 (Summer - Autumn, 1981), 141.

¹⁰ Michael Clem, Archaeologist, Eastern Region Preservation Office, Department of Historic Resources, “Archaeology at Eyreville, Northampton County,” Department of Historic Resources Archaeology Blogs, updated December 21, 2021. Retrieved from the VDHR website on January 11, 2023 at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/articles-blogs-contributions-in-newsletters/update-on-archaeology-at-eyreville-northampton-county/>.

¹¹ Ibid.

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Figure 12. Aerial photograph (2019) of the feature discovered at the initial "tree hole" area at Eyreville believed to represent the Howe house (c. 1630-c. 1637). The site measures 50' (east-to-west) by 30' (north-to-south). The hole from which the tree stump was pulled is at the top right. The dark areas show the debris that was used to backfill an old cellar of the original house. Material collected at this site dates to the early and mid-seventeenth century and suggests that it was abandoned about the time William Kendall purchased the property (1657) and built a new house nearby. Some post holes are visible in this aerial view and are subject to further investigation. (VDHR, 2018)

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Figure 13. Aerial photograph (2018) of archaeological feature that is believed to be one of the houses built by William Kendall in the mid- to late seventeenth century. It is about 16 feet deep by 32 feet wide, has a bulkhead entrance to the cellar in the southwest corner (top left of image), and a nicely finished stone-tiled floor in what was likely an "English basement." The house is of red brick with yellow Dutch brick lining the entire bottom of the foundation. Archaeologists believe that William Kendall (1657) built this house to replace the original Howe house. Kendall's structure is about 100 feet north of the Howe house site. (VDHR, 2018)

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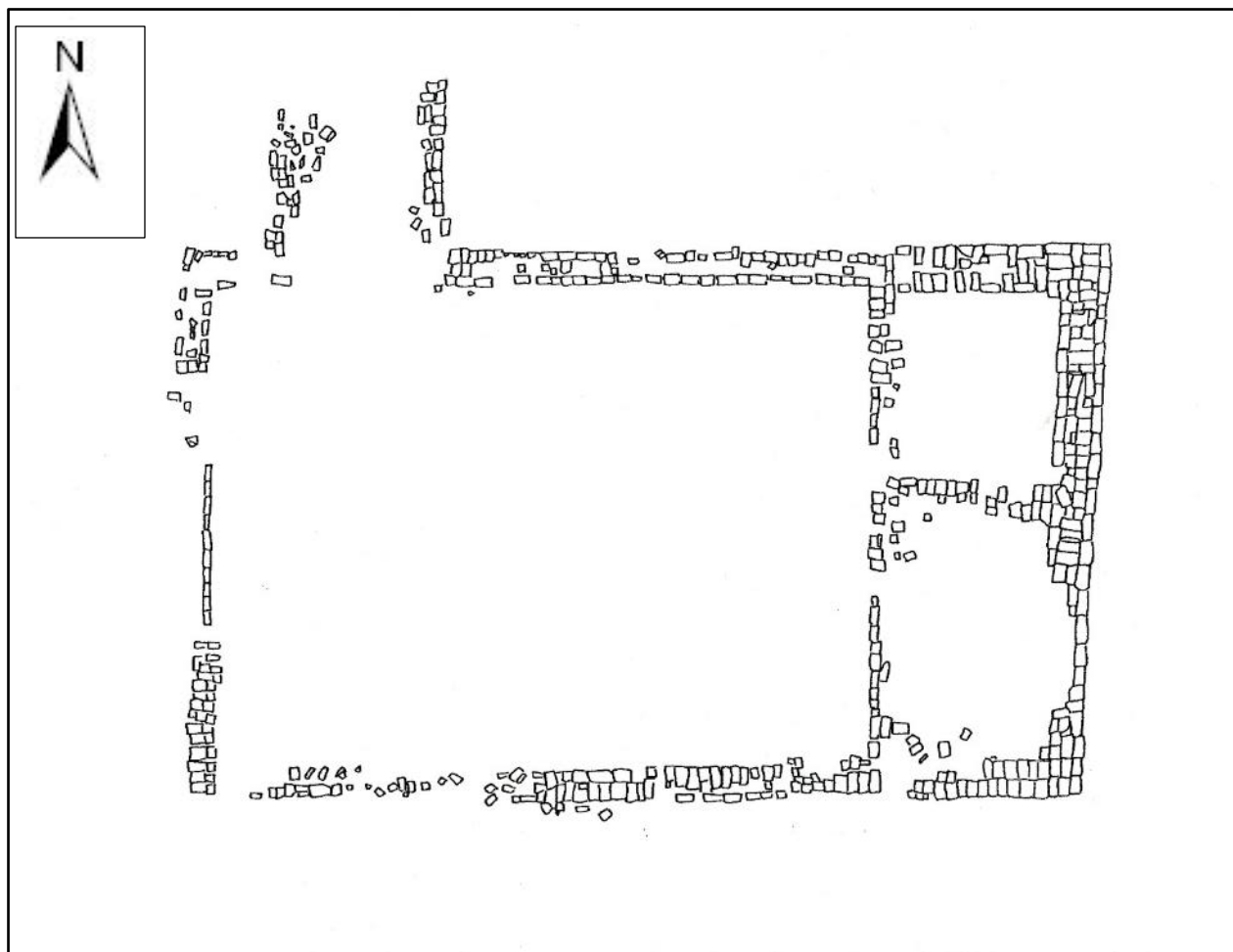


Figure 14. Sketch of brick outline at archaeological feature of c. 1657 Kendall house (see Figure 13). Courtesy: VDHR.

Artifacts

Artifacts recovered at the site so far complement what has been discovered in contemporaneous documents concerning the property. There is very good evidence confirming the first years of the site's occupation, including a number of Richmond and Lennox farthings dating to the 1620s and 1630s (Figure 15), a jeton from the late sixteenth to the early seventeenth century, tobacco pipes from the early decades of the seventeenth century, a great deal of blue-and-gray stoneware from the Rhine River valley, graffito slipware from North Devonshire, England, and tin-glazed earthenware tiles are among the ceramics. Artifacts and historical documents indicate trade with Dutch merchants and possibly the occupation of Dutch colonists at the site. Hundreds of yellow Dutch bricks, manufactured in Gouda, have been found on site and are a material typically found only on the earliest of colonial sites. The number of Dutch tobacco pipes, identified through hallmarks and the elaborate stem decoration, points to this early trade as well. Although both English and Dutch pipes were of white clay and featured a rounded "belly" bowl, the Dutch pipes differed in their use of decorated stems and impressed makers' marks on the bottoms of the bowl.

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Figure 15. Farthings dating to the 1620s and 1630s collected at 44NH0507. Courtesy: VDHR

English-made pipes also were recovered and more than 800 locally made, red-clay tobacco pipe bowls and fragments recovered were likely manufactured by Native Americans living on the Shore and in the Chesapeake region.¹² The Native American pipe bowls are identified as products of Algonquian peoples and are decorated with motifs of flying birds, running deer, and corn stalks, as well as geometric patterns (Figure 16 and Additional Documentation 5 through 8). Numerous trade beads recovered at the site also indicate trade with the native population.

¹² Mike Clem and Taft Kiser, "Tobacco Pipes from 17th-Century Eyreville, Northampton County, Eastern Shore," Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archaeology Blogs, updated February 1, 2022. Retrieved from the VDHR website on January 11, 2023 at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/articles-blogs-contributions-in-newsletters/tobacco-pipes-from-17th-century-eyreville-northampton-county-eastern-shore/>.

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Figure 16. Native American pipe bowl recovered at 44NH0507 showing bird decoration. Courtesy: VDHR.

Archaeological Integrity Statement

Site 44NH0507 has been continuously occupied since about 1630-1637 when John Howe is presumed to have first built his house. Artifacts collected at Eyreville confirm the site is associated with one of the earliest English-occupied sites excavated on Virginia's Eastern Shore. VDHR archaeologists also believe this is one of the earliest Colonial-era sites to be excavated on the Delmarva Peninsula and the recovered artifacts correspond to similar finds at Jamestown and other Colonial-era sites in the Chesapeake region. The work completed to date at Site 44NH0507 represents a core area and, as more archaeology is completed in the future, the boundaries may increase to enlarge the concept of this architectural and archaeology historic district. Excavations, documentary evidence, and historical research on the occupants reveal that the site retains a high level of all aspects of integrity.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHAEOLOGY: HISTORIC/ NON-ABORIGINAL

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

c. 1637-1945

Significant Dates

c. 1637

c. 1657-1658

c. 1682

1800

1839

1942

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Howe, John [c. 1594]-c. 1637)

Kendall, William (1621-1686)

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The nominated property at Eyreville encompasses about 6.5 acres of a 17-acre parcel at the western end of Eyreville Neck in Northampton County, Virginia. The neck, situated about eight miles north of Cape Charles, extends west from U.S. Route 13/Charles M. Lankford, Jr., Memorial Highway and is bounded by Old Castle Creek on the north, Eyreville Creek on the south, and Cherrystone Inlet to the west, which opens onto Chesapeake Bay. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district that possesses a concentration of buildings, structures, and sites that are united historically by physical development and historic context. Eyreville is significant at the state level under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement for its direct relationship to the early Colonial-era settlement of the region and its subsequent development. The property's archaeological resources are directly and significantly associated with the seventeenth-century settlement of the Eastern Shore and Chesapeake region by Euro-Americans, reflect the material culture of successive periods of occupation, and are historically associated with prominent families with deep ties to the origins of the Eastern Shore and its agricultural and economic growth.

Eyreville is significant under Criterion B for its association with notable historic persons who lived the productive period of their lives at the property. These individuals are the Colonial-era settlers John Howe, locally significant in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Politics/Government, and Col. William Kendall, locally significant in the area of Politics/Government.

Eyreville is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the significance of its evolved two-and-a-half-story, brick Federal-era main dwelling and twentieth-century additions to the property, all of which retain high integrity. The main house's architecture is a significant example of the Federal style comparable to other Eastern Shore dwellings of the same period. The earliest section of the house was built about 1800 with a major addition in 1839. During the mid-twentieth century, notable alterations and additions were completed, which have attained their own historical significance for their association with the Colonial Revival movement.

Eyreville is significant at the state level under Criterion D in the areas of Architecture, Archaeology: Historic/ Non-Aboriginal, and Exploration/Settlement as a property that already has yielded information important to history and that may yield additional information as archaeological investigations continue at the site. Excavations completed to date have revealed the remains of one, and possibly two, post-in-ground structures (c. 1630-c. 1637), two brick foundations (c. 1657-c. 1658 and c. 1682), and numerous artifacts that convey information about the domestic activities as well as the social and economic status of the inhabitants of these structures, and that relate to seventeenth-century trade among English and Dutch interests, as well as with the local Native American population. The subsurface deposits are remarkably intact and also yield significant information about the evolution of construction practices and materials on the Eastern Shore from the 1630s to the late 17th century. The property possesses the potential to yield additional sites, features, and artifacts that could further inform the study of early Chesapeake society and trade relations between the colonies and Europe, as well as other research topics related

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to the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Architecture as they occurred during the seventeenth century on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Eyreville's period of significance extends from c. 1637, the earliest known date of occupation by an English settler, to 1945, by which time construction of all contributing architectural resources was completed. Significant dates for Eyreville are c. 1637, when John Howe patented the original acreage and the date by which the earth-fast dwelling was constructed; c. 1657-c. 1658, when William Kendall acquired the property and built a brick house on the property (identified in late-17th-century records as the "old" house) as well as a 1682 brick house (identified as the "new" house in historic records); 1800, which coincides with construction of the extant Federal style dwelling; 1839, when an addition doubled the dwelling's size; and 1942, when significant Colonial Revival renovations and expansion of the dwelling began.

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

Justification of Criteria

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement

The property now known as Eyreville figures prominently in the early Colonial-era settlement of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The earliest English settlement on the Eastern Shore was in 1614, when Lt. Craddock sent a group to the peninsula to procure salt for the Jamestown fort. In the following decades, a few hearty settlers moved from the relative comforts of James' fort to the Eastern Shore, an area still considered by many of their peers as an isolated area. From documentary and archaeological evidence (discussed below), the earliest occupation of the nominated property by English colonists may date to about 1623, although the first recorded patent for the land dates to 1637. These early associations make Eyreville significant as a property that was actively occupied and cultivated at the inception of the Virginia colony and, ultimately, the nation. Important economic activities were launched from the property as well, and its earliest owners, including John Howe and William Kendall, were men who held great sway in the early legislature and local authoritative bodies (both judicial and religious). By 1797, the property was owned by the Eyre family, who gave the property its historical and current name. The Eyres are a well-known and well-established Eastern Shore family whose homeplace, Eyre Hall, located south across the creek from Eyreville, is listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Eyreville's historical record, artifacts, and buildings illustrate ways in which English colonists settled the Eastern Shore from its earliest days through the twentieth century. Both the colonial settlement and the cultural resources associated with the nominated property reflect the domestic and agricultural lives and increasing social and economic status of its historical inhabitants.

Criterion B: Association with Persons Significant in History (John Howe: Exploration/Settlement and Politics/Government and William Kendall: Exploration/Settlement and Politics/Government;)

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Eyreville property was owned by men of high social, economic, and political standing, and in the twentieth century by those associated with the agricultural and industrial heritage of the Eastern Shore. The earliest English colonist associated with the property is John Howe ([c. 1594]-c. 1638), who, records show, arrived in the Virginia colony in 1621 and by 1623-1624 was living on the Eastern Shore. In 1632, Howe was appointed as one of the commissioners for the monthly Accomack County court, reflecting his status as a

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leader of the community, and also served as a vestryman, Commander of Accomack, and a four-term representative to the House of Burgesses.¹³ Because Accomack County [later renamed Northampton County] records are unbroken from 1632 to present, there is sufficient evidence to support Howe's status in the community, which is confirmed by his recorded burial in the King's Creek church chancel—a tribute reserved for high status individuals. For these reasons, Howe is locally significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement. In 1637, Howe patented 1,000 acres (for 20 headrights) extending from bay-to-sea and identified as bordering Cherrystone Creek. Eastern Shore historian Ralph T. Whitelaw identifies this patent as part of present-day Eyreville.¹⁴ It is likely that the post-in-ground foundations discovered by archaeological investigations were associated with Howe's occupation of the site. The remnants of this structure, on a property newly acquired by Howe, speak to the upward mobility of Howe in the sparsely populated shore community. Most of the earliest settlement on the Eastern Shore of Virginia was concentrated on Old Plantation Creek or between King's Creek to the south and Cherrystone Creek in what was known as Company Land. Howe had become a County Commissioner and a Burgess by 1631 (serving in that capacity until his death) and as a Burgess was compensated with 1,500 lbs. of tobacco. He was also appointed the Commander of Accomack and given the title of Captain. It is unclear if this appointment was compensated but it seems likely to have been. He also was able to claim several "headrights" in his patent for the property, indicating a degree of prosperity. Moving to this new property indicates that Howe had attained a level of status within the community at large and had acquired the wherewithal to live independently as a "gentleman farmer," setting a precedent for others in the shore community to attain property and expand their plantation efforts.

Eyreville is locally significant for its association with Col. William Kendall (1621-1686) who, in 1657, purchased 600 acres of the former Howe land on the west side of the peninsula (later adding adjacent lands on the west and south). The Kendall family owned the property for 140 years. William Kendall is locally significant in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Politics/Government. He arrived in the Virginia colony as an indentured servant and, upon attaining his freedom in 1654, rapidly advanced as a skilled merchant with an international clientele. Locally, he served on the court of Northampton County, was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the local militia and raised to Colonel in 1671, was appointed by Virginia's colonial governor as a Special Commissioner on Indian Affairs, and served in the House of Burgesses for several terms and was Speaker of that body.¹⁵ As was typical in other colonial-era communities in Virginia, the political leaders often were also the largest landowners and Col. Kendall followed this pattern as did Howe before him. At the time of his death, Col. Kendall was among the largest landowners on the Eastern Shore, in part through marriage to Susanna Baker Eyre Pott, eventually becoming one of the largest landowners on the Eastern Shore with thousands of acres on the peninsula.¹⁶ Col. Kendall occupied the Eyreville property with his wife, family,

¹³ Susie. M. Ames, "Beginnings and Progress," in *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Vol. 1*, Charles B. Clark, ed., (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co. Inc., 1950), 107; Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 1, Eyreville Site." Unpublished manuscript, February 2017. Howe is listed among the first burgesses from Accomack in 1632.

¹⁴ Whitelaw, 199. Eyreville is associated with Whitelaw's parcel designated "N44."

¹⁵ Whitelaw, 200; Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 3, Eyreville Site, 1657-1686." Unpublished manuscript, March 27, 2017.

¹⁶ Leonard W. Johnson, ed. *Ebb and Flow: a History of the Virginia Tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, 1561-1892* ([s.l: s.n.], 1982), 63; Lounsbury, 50. Kendall's marriage to Susanna, Thomas Eyre's widow, provided a direct tie to that storied

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indentured servants, and enslaved Africans, and constructed a house and warehouse on the farm. Kendall lived here during the productive period of his life as a successful international merchant, landholder, and politician. It is believed that the brick foundations discovered during archaeological investigations date to the Kendall period. The detailed room-by-room inventory made of the household after the death of Kendall's son, William Kendall II (c. 1664-1696), refers to "an old house" and a "new house," listing goods stored in each dwelling. The "old" house currently is believed to date to c. 1657- c. 1658, following the Col. Kendall's acquisition of the property. The "new" house is thought to date to 1682. Continued comparisons of the inventory and the existing foundations may confirm the identity of these archaeological resources and the historical uses of the spaces. The majority of artifacts recovered at Site 44NH0507) relate to this period, including pipes, stoneware, coins, and household items, and illustrate a period during which, as Dr. Lounsbury notes, "the material welfare of the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore, the amount of things in a household, and the number of specialized objects used to clothe, cook, dine, and entertain increased markedly."¹⁷ Certainly the houses constructed during the period of Kendall's occupation speak to the advanced status he held in the community. His first home, likely the brick foundation with the stone cellar floor that has been excavated, was not only meant to provide living space but was meant as a symbol of his status to the community. The cellar walls were whitewashed and the stone floor was mortared into place to the degree that it was nearly water-tight. It was certainly a well-built and well-planned house, likely composed of a frame structure sitting on an "English Basement" with the main floor elevated several feet above the ground. The dwelling was oriented to face the opening at Cherrystone Inlet and could have been seen from miles out in the Chesapeake. It is one of the earliest brick foundations discovered to date on Virginia's Eastern Shore and would certainly mark a new era of abandonment of the "Virginia house" form, by those with the means to do so, for something more grand. The second house, based on the findings in the field, was likely even more substantial. Its foundation walls are two-and-a-half bricks wide as opposed to the foundation of the earlier house, which was only a brick-and-a-half wide. It is possible that the second house was entirely of brick construction. The cellar, which has not been excavated, is completely full of brick bubble, enough to potentially indicate a full brick structure. This house, from 1682, is oriented perpendicular to the inlet. It is suspected that by this time the road networks were becoming better established and, while the commerce and trade were still oriented toward shipping, the approach to the property by neighbors and visitors may have been from the land side. This new orientation of the living quarters perhaps allowed for a more formal facade related to the approach by land. Again, this may be symbolic of Kendall's desire to declare his status in the local community and in the greater colony.

Criterion C: Architecture

Eyreville is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its Federal style design, which was incorporated and preserved during early to mid-twentieth century expansions in the Colonial Revival. The evolved, nineteenth-century Eastern Shore plantation dwelling represents the fortunes of prosperous agricultural production over two centuries as the two-and-one-half-story brick house exhibits Federal style form and detailing alongside and interwoven with

Eastern Shore family. The next owner of Kendall's property, William Eyre, was a direct descendant of Kendall's stepson Thomas Eyre II (c. 1650-1715).

¹⁷ Lounsbury, 46.

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twentieth-century Colonial Revival modifications. The oldest section of the house, completed for William Eyre, is the rear 1800 wing that was modified by the 1806 addition of a stairhall. Incised date bricks attest to the construction dates. The 1839 south end addition, completed during the ownership of William Littleton Eyre, more than doubled the footprint of the house. The front (south) and side (east) porches were added in the early twentieth century and have been modified several times since. The rear colonnade and connected dependencies were added by Guy L. Webster in the 1940s. Webster also constructed the associated outbuildings on the nominated property that include the social space of the oyster house, a garage, a building for display of Jane Hunter Ferguson Webster's doll collection (Doll House), a secondary dwelling, and several sheds. Some of these buildings reflect details that appear to be inspired by the then-ongoing Colonial Williamsburg restorations. The formal garden and gazebo also are part of Webster's contributions to the property. Eyreville joins the list of important and influential early nineteenth-century dwellings in the region that reflect the then-emerging Federal style and the later influence of the Colonial Revival style. The social status of those for whom it was built is evident in its all-brick construction, stylistic woodwork, and notable marble mantelpieces.

Criterion D: Exploration/Settlement; Architecture; Archaeology: Historic/ Non-Aboriginal

Under Criterion D, Eyreville is locally significant in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Architecture, and Archaeology: Historic/ Non-Aboriginal due to the presence of important, intact seventeenth-century archaeological features and sites that correspond to the earliest known occupation of this land by English colonists. The intact nature of the architectural features provides significant information about the earliest colonial construction practices on Virginia's Eastern Shore during the 1630s and how those practices changed over the course of the 17th century. Since 2017, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) has conducted several field schools and additional investigations at the property that have located the sites of two seventeenth-century post-in-ground structures and one brick structure. Artifacts recovered from intact stratified cultural levels at these locations date the features to the early-to-mid-seventeenth century, corresponding to the earliest English occupation of the property, which is confirmed by Northampton County records. Artifacts collected at Eyreville also substantiate that Site 44NH0507 is associated with one of the earliest English-occupied sites excavated on Virginia's Eastern Shore; VDHR archaeologists also believe that the Eyreville site is one of the earliest Colonial-era sites excavated to date on the Delmarva peninsula.

Research Design

Investigations of Site 44NH0507 at Eyreville conducted to date have been managed by VDHR archaeologists who developed a research design that unfolded across multiple years and that was refined over time based on results of archaeological excavations and historical research. Since 2017, the four archaeological field schools and several additional investigations by VDHR staff on the property have yielded important information about the site's integrity, the estimated time periods of occupation, and the spatial analysis of the site. Survey strategies employed included historic map projection, oral history, metal detection, surface observation, and subsurface testing. Field investigations included excavation of 48 test units (each 2.5 feet square) and evidence obtained indicates continuous occupation since about 1635 onward with multiple houses and other structures through the 170 years or so before the 1800 Federal style house was built.

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

Artifacts recovered to date convey important information on the settlers' trade with the local Native peoples, as well as international trade with Dutch and English interests. Thousands of artifacts from colonial Virginia's first century have been recovered at Eyreville, including blue-and-gray stoneware from the Rhine River valley, and sgraffito slipware from North Devonshire, England. The thousands of tobacco pipes are of note, not just due to the vast number of fragments recovered, but also because they carry a great deal of information about the site and the region, especially with regard to the region's tobacco culture and trade. Significantly, the earliest pipes at Eyreville appear to be of Algonquian production and not made by local colonists. VDHR archaeologists believe that the pipes almost certainly were made near or at Eyreville. It may be that the pipes were made inside the colonial compound, as has been found at another site across the Chesapeake Bay in Westmoreland County (44WM0012). There are multiple bowls that appear to have been made by the same hands and, of the 1,878 pipe fragments, 44 percent are of Native American origin. The presence of the Dutch pipes at 44NH0507 give physical proof of Netherlanders trading with the isolated tobacco plantation on the far Eastern Shore. Together with documentary evidence, these artifacts suggest that Dutch individuals also may have stayed or lived at the Eyreville site during Howe's or Kendall's ownerships.

Research Questions

With regard to Eyreville's significance in the area of Exploration/ Settlement, given the substantial documentary evidence related to the property coupled with its archaeological resources, many fascinating avenues for further archaeological investigations have presented themselves.

- Questions about the rise of personal wealth in the early days of settlement and the emerging tobacco culture may be examined as researchers study the material culture related to the multiple occupations at the site: from the first post-in-ground structure at the south end of the site through the later episodes of building related to the Kendall period in the northern portion and the eastern Eyre portion of the site.
- Through studying the nearly 2,000 tobacco pipes already excavated, and those still to be recovered, much can be learned about the people occupying the property through time. This includes the owners, the indentured, and the enslaved inhabitants. It may also help to answer questions about the Native population and their interactions and trade with

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colonists, since nearly half the pipes are of Native American manufacture, and some may have been manufactured onsite or nearby. Further answers may be found about interactions with the Native population, as well, by an examination of the beads found in the excavations. Researchers may also learn more about Dutch settlement in the Cherrystone Creek area. Several documents hint at this possibility and further investigation may yield answers through cultural deposits still in the ground.

- Eyreville has produced more yellow Dutch bricks than any other site in Virginia; in addition, almost as many Dutch-made pipes as English-made pipes have been found at the site, despite that English colonists had been restricted by the British crown from engaging in commerce with other European powers. How this came to be, and whether Dutch were living at Eyreville during Howe's time or perhaps Kendall's, warrant further investigation. That documentary evidence indicates that Kendall had close ties to the Dutch and even travelled to Amsterdam on business provides compelling evidence for more work at Site 44NH0507.
- Another line of research could provide information on the presence of Dutch ships on the Eastern Shore, perhaps at the Eyreville property, about the time of Howe's death. Documentation states that in the spring of 1638, a Dutch ship visited the Virginia colony bringing a "commission from the young Queen of Sweden." This commission sought "to have free trade for tobacco to carry to Sweden," but the Virginia colonial governor and council denied them any of the highly valued tobacco crop.¹⁸ The ship, the *Kalmar Nyckel*, stayed ten days in port (present-day Hampton) and then left with another ship, the *Fogel Grip*, both "bound for Delaware Bay" where they intended to "make a plantation and plant tobacco." The ships carried representatives of the New Sweden Company to the site of present-day Wilmington, Delaware, where they named their fort "Christina," in honor of their twelve-year-old queen. A tantalizing research question is whether, prior to joining up with the *Kalmar Nyckel*, the *Fogel Grip* "scouted" the Eastern Shore looking for willing farmers (or fugitive indentured servants or enslaved African laborers) to help establish the new Dutch colony. Had these two ships detoured into Cherrystone Creek on their way to Delaware Bay? Had they visited the shipbuilding in progress at Howe's, talked to the men there over some bowls of tobacco? Had they tried to entice a few workers, turning their heads with gifts, perhaps some pipes? Given the presence of yellow "Dutch bricks" at Site 44NH0507, might the Dutch sailors have offloaded brick ballast to take on contraband tobacco?
- A subject not yet thoroughly explored for which research questions could be found and answered here in relation to the early occupations of the enslaved Africans at Eyreville. The first English owner of the property, John Howe, transported Black headrights into the colony, who may have lived at the site with Howe. William Kendall, who occupied the land beginning in 1657, enslaved African people during his lifetime (identified as such in his List of Tithables), and his heirs after him, including William II and William III, also were slaveholders. While no definitive evidence of the enslaved African persons at Eyreville has yet been found through archaeological investigation, future field

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

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investigations may identify such evidence in both material culture and in the form of subsurface features that have yet to be encountered.

- The grounds at Site 44NH0507 have never been plowed because the lawn area at Eyreville has been occupied continuously for nearly 400 years. This rare circumstance increases the probability of recovering unaltered data sets with no modern intrusions or interruptions. Therefore, it is clear that this site presents a unique opportunity to parse out the various populations who lived here, as well as to establish reliable temporal distinctions between those eras and groups.

In terms of the architectural significance of the subsurface features and artifacts identified to date at Eyreville, information yielded to date has provided important evidence of some of the earliest (1620s-1630s) colonial occupations and architectural data on the Eastern Shore, in part due to the remarkably intact nature of the subsurface deposits. Having never been plowed or altered in the subsequent centuries, the quality of Eyreville's subsurface architectural features are providing important information about the construction practices of the area's earliest buildings as well as the evolution of these buildings methods and materials through the end of the 17th century as more wealth was accumulated and more permanent buildings were erected, both in terms of scale and permanence. From a small c. 1637 post-in-ground house associated with John Howe to one (possibly two) brick dwelling sites dating to William Kendall's ownership, and eventually to an even larger house, culminating with the extant mansion, Eyreville is providing significant information about the Eastern Shore's architectural history that, to date, rarely has been documented elsewhere.

In short, the opportunities presented at Eyreville, given its age and level of integrity both vertically and horizontally, offer a generous number of avenues for research and study that will certainly be felt for generations. Little of Site 44NH0507 has thus far been examined, yet already results of investigations have produced a book chapter related to the tobacco pipes, a monograph soon to be published, several research papers, and dozens of public presentations.¹⁹ Furthermore, future investigations at Eyreville have the potential to provide more information pertaining to the pre-English settlement, and the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century occupation of the site by both White and Black inhabitants.

Historical Narrative

The following narrative history concerning the occupation of the property from the seventeenth century through the beginning of the nineteenth century is indebted to the research conducted by Jenean Hall in support of VDHR's archaeological field surveys. The nineteenth-century ownership by the Eyre family, and the period during which the majority of the present house was constructed,

¹⁹ See Haley Hoffman, "Eyreville: Archaeology of the Late Seventeenth Century" in *The Material World of Eyre Hall: Four Centuries of Chesapeake History*, Lounsbury, ed.; Jenean Hall, Papers No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4; Clem and Kiser, "Tobacco Pipes from 17th-Centeruy Eyreville, Northampton County, Eastern Shore; Clem and Barber, "Background Research and Excavations at the Eyreville Site (44NH0507); and Clem, "Archaeology at Eyreville Northampton County."

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relies on Dr. Carl Lounsbury's extensive study of the Eyre family, Eyre Hall, and Eyreville completed in 2021 (The Material World of Eyre Hall).

Seventeenth Century

John Howe's Ownership

The extensive record collection at the Northampton County courthouse in Eastville and other colonial records provide substantial information on the seventeenth-century ownership and occupation of the Eyreville property. The first record related to the property dates to 1637 and is a patent to John Howe for 1,000 acres on Cherrystone Creek. Howe arrived in the Virginia colony in 1621 and is listed in the 1623-1624 muster as living on the Eastern Shore, likely in or near the official settlement of Old Plantation.²⁰ By the 1624-1625 muster, a more detailed account of the colonists and their households, additional information is available about Howe, including that he owned one house, one storehouse, five barrels of corn, five pounds of [gun] powder, twenty pounds of shot [though he did not own a gun], and two pieces of armor.²¹ In 1628, Howe, identified as "Gent. Accomack Co.," leased 30 acres on the southern shore of Cherrystone Creek from Francis West for a period of 10 years.²² On October 24, 1637, Howe, who had attained the rank as captain, received a patent for 1,000 acres "on Cherrystones Cr. to the Ewd." for the transportation of 20 persons, including four Black headrights (not named) and three women.²³ In 1636, however, a patent from Capt. John West to Edward Drew for 300 acres refers to Howe as an adjacent landowner—"Northerly upon the land of John Howe"—suggesting that Howe was already occupying the land by the time of the 1637 patent. The number of years before his formal ownership is uncertain, but, given the documentary and archaeological evidence, Howe may have occupied the property as much as a decade earlier. Implicit in that occupation of the land is that he must have constructed a house in the 1630s.²⁴ Papers filed in connection with a dispute between John Neale and John Tolson about ownership of a ship also reveal that about the time of Howe's death (1637-1638), a pinnacle was built at his house site at Cherrystone Creek. According to testimony, Howe was to procure all iron and other materials for the vessel, while Tolson provided timber and labor. Howe's will, which has not been located but is referenced in another will, directed that his property be sold to pay his debts.²⁵

²⁰ The 1623/24 muster lists 76 individuals on the Eastern Shore at the time. Jamestowne Society, "Lists of The Living & Dead in Virginia-February 16th, 1623." As transcribed from "Colonial Records of Virginia," (Richmond, VA: R.F. Walker, Superintendent Public Printing, Clemmitt & Jones, Printers, 1874), 38-68. Accessed on the Jamestowne Society website at: <https://www.jamestowne.org/1623-lists-of-living-dead.html>. Listed as "John How" on the Eastern Shore. This muster is a list of those who were alive in the colony and where they lived following attacks on English settlements by Native Americans in March 1622. Also available in "Colonial Records of Virginia," (Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., 1992).

²¹ Virtual Jamestown, "1624/25 Databases." Accessed at the Virtual Jamestown website at <http://www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/introduction.htmlc>. N.B. Howe appears as "Home" in this database. By comparison with others on the Eastern Shore, his possessions suggest a subsistence level.

²² Nell Marion Nugent, *Abstracts of Land Patents [Virginia] 1666-1732*, (Richmond, VA: n.d.) Volume 1, No. 1:14. (Citing Patent Book 1, page 87, Sept 20, 1628)

²³ Nell Marion Nugent, *Abstracts of Land Patents [Virginia] 1666-1732*, (Richmond, VA: n.d.) Vol 1 No. 3: 110. (Citing Patent book 1, page 487, Oct 24, 1637).

²⁴ Clem and Barber [2022].

²⁵ Hall, "Paper No. 1 Eyreville Site." See Will of Edward Robins (1640) in James Handley Marshall, compiler, *Abstracts of the Wills and Administrations of Northampton County, Virginia, 1632-1802* (Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1994), 9.

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John Howe lived on the Eastern Shore during the first decade of English settlement on the peninsula. During his time there, Howe held the status of a “gentleman” and acquired both military rank and political standing. As early as 1624, he provided testimony at court in James City and was executor for the estate for Luke Aden, one of Howe’s claimed headrights. Beginning in 1631, Howe served as a burgess for Accomack [Accawmacke] to the General Assembly, a seat that he filled for four sessions; he was also a vestryman and a commissioner for the county court. As Commander of Accomack, he was made a Captain in the local colonial militia. As evidence of Howe’s noble standing in the community, he was buried in the chancel of the c. 1623 church then standing at King’s Creek (north of present-day Cape Charles)—an honor reserved for persons of high social status.²⁶

Robins Ownership

At the c. 1638 auction of John Howe’s land, Nathaniel Littleton purchased the 1,000-acre tract and soon thereafter sold it to Edward Robins, who had been a London merchant and came to the Virginia colony in 1621.²⁷ It is in Robins’s documents that the property first was referred to as “Newport House,” a name of uncertain origin. Reference also is made to a house on the middle section of the patent, which may be a house constructed earlier by John Howe. Robins died in 1640, only two years after acquiring the property, and his holdings descended to his widow and daughters, who had remained in England. After Robins’s death, his brother, Obedience Robins, was named Administrator of the estate and oversaw active agricultural operations on the “Newport” lands likely through the labor of indentured servants and/or through lease of such servants to other colonists. Obedience Robins, who arrived in Virginia with his brother in 1621, became a very prominent member of Eastern Shore society, accrued thousands of acres of land, and like John Howe, served in the House of Burgesses (for six terms), was an Accomack Commissioner, and was appointed to the Governor’s Council.²⁸ Obedience Robins’s widow, Jane, married George Puddington, who had been in the Virginia colony but returned to England about 1640. About 1645, the couple travelled back to Virginia with Edward and Jane Robins’s two daughters (Rachell and Elizabeth) and the Puddingtons’ daughter, Mary. The family’s time in Accomack was brief, since they moved to Maryland in 1650; it is unlikely that they made any significant changes to the existing house on the “Newport” property.²⁹

²⁶ Hall, Paper No. 1. Hall’s sources include Susie Ames, ed., *County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia, 1632-1640* (Washington, D.C.: The American Historical Association, 1954), H.R. McIlwaine, ed., *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 1622-132, 1670-1676* (Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia, 1924), and the county records themselves. For discussion of early churches on the Eastern Shore see George Carrington Mason, “The Colonial Churches of the Eastern Shore of Virginia,” in *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine* Vol 20, Second Series, No. 4 (October 1940):448-474, and “The Six Earliest Churches on the Eastern Shore of Virginia,” *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine* Vol 21, No. 3 (July, 1941):1998-207.

²⁷ Marshall, 9.

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

²⁹ Jenean Hall, “Paper No. 2, Eyreville Site, 1638-1657.” Unpublished manuscript, March 6, 2017.

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In 1657, the two Robins daughters, since married, sold their inherited Accomack property in three parcels: the middle section of 600 acres to William Kendall, which included the former house site (now identified as part of Site 44NH0507); the north 200 acres to William Andrews; and the south 200 acres to Andrews, who sold it to Francis Pettitt in 1664 and which eventually became part of the Eyre Hall property. The tract purchased by Kendall was described as “towards ye head of Cherrystone Creecke” and being “all ye land upon Newporte Creek.... And on which standeth ye Cheeife Howse....”³⁰ This land transaction is useful in its reiteration of the ownership of the property by Howe, its auction per instruction of his will, the purchase by Nathaniel Littleton and conveyance to Edward Robins, and the division by the Robins daughters.

William Kendall's Ownership

William Kendall (1621-1686) was born in England and worked as a clerk for a merchant before immigrating to the Virginia colony in about 1651 as an indentured servant to Edward Drew. Kendall's life is an example of the unusual rise of a colonist from indentured servant to wealthy landowner, international trader, planter, and enslaver. Because of his accounting skills, he served as a clerk for Drew and, when he received his freedom in 1654, Kendall quickly rose to be one of the Eastern Shore's most successful international merchants.³¹ The first dwelling thought to be associated with Kendall is the c. 1658 brick dwelling referred to in historic records as the “old” house. Kendall would marry three times (perhaps four), including a lucrative marriage to widow Susanna Baker Eyre Pott (d.1683), which tied his family, and eventually his land, to the Eyre family.

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

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

³⁰ Northampton County Deed Book (NCDB) VII:67 (September 16, 1657), also cited in Howard Mackey and Marlene Groves, eds., *Northampton County, Virginia Record Book: Deeds, Willis, &c: Vol 6 and 7-8: 1655-57* (Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2002):162-164.

³¹ Lounsbury, 59n58-59.

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extensive Kendall landholdings during the late seventeenth century. Their unpaid labor contributed substantially to the Kendall family's accumulation of wealth.³²

In 1682, just a few years prior to his death, Kendall embarked on the construction of a new house at his Cherrystone Creek property. Later records suggest that Kendall was replacing the aforementioned c. 1657-c. 1658 dwelling with a second, larger house. It is presumed that any house erected by the original owner John Howe would have been an earthfast/post-in-ground structure. With Kendall's increasing wealth, availability of household materials and comforts, it is likely that Kendall would have constructed a more permanent (i.e., brick) house for his family. The earliest archaeological discoveries on the Eyreville property at Site 44NH0507 appear to relate to the Howe period of occupation. The post-in-ground features discovered likely are those of Howe's initial buildings. Other artifacts dating to the early 1620s include a number of Richmond Farthings (1620-1630) and Jetons (late 1500s-early 1600s).³³ The Kendall period of occupation likely is related to the brick house site that has been identified at Site 44NH0507 and a second, later house site also has been indicated during field investigations.

When William Kendall died in 1686, his third wife, Sarah Mathews, remained in their house at the Eyreville site per her husband's wishes until their son was born and then they moved to land left to her by William on Hungers Neck (now Wilsonia Neck). Col. Kendall's son, William (II), then came into possession of the Eyreville property. No inventory was taken at the time of Col. Kendall's death, although his will refers to notable goods such as jewelry, plates and dishes, salt cellars, tablecloths, and silverware.³⁴

When Kendall's son William (II) died in 1696, a room-by-room inventory was made of the objects in "old" and "new" houses he inherited from his father, since Col. Kendall's estate was still unsettled. The distinction of "old" and "new" suggests that Col. Kendall had built two houses on the site. This inventory, together with artifacts recovered at the Eyreville site dating to this period, testify to the increase in the amount and the quality of goods in the Kendall household. The assemblage illustrates "the transformation of Eastern Shore society from a rough-and-tumble frontier to a more settled agricultural society in the second half of the seventeenth century.... These items [recovered artifacts] are emblematic of the emergence of a planter elite and the tentative beginnings of a gentry society that would dominate the region in the coming century."³⁵ The archaeological deposits and related artifacts illustrate how the site evolved over time from its earliest occupation by English settlers (1620s), evidenced by earthfast features, to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century, evidenced by brick foundations.

The level of wealth and the breadth of items enjoyed by the Kendall family is reflected in four primary categories of recovered artifacts from Site 44NH0507: ceramics, tobacco pipes, books,

³² John B. Bell, *Northampton County, Virginia, Tithables, 1662-1677* (Bowie, Md: Heritage Books, 1993).

³³ Clem, "Archaeology at Eyreville, Northampton County."

³⁴ Jenean Hall, "Paper No. 4, Eyreville Site, 1686-1720." Unpublished manuscript, April 27, 2017. Will of William Kendall, see Walczyk 1683-1689, vol II, 18.

³⁵ Haley Hoffman, "Eyreville: Archaeology of the Late Seventeenth Century," in Lounsbury, ed., *The Material World of Eyre Hall: Four Centuries of Chesapeake History* (Baltimore, MD: Maryland Center for History and Culture, 2021), 61.

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and hardware. Chinese porcelain sherds, English and German wares, thousands of Dutch and Native American pipestems and bowls, metal book clasps, and metal furniture hardware are among the most notable artifacts that confirm the family's trade with European (English and Dutch) partners, as well as local Native Americans whose red/brown clay pipes are incised with images of flora and fauna.³⁶ In addition, the hundreds of yellow Dutch "Gouda" bricks located in the foundations at the site indicate trade with Dutch merchants and possibly the occupation of the vicinity by Dutch colonists. Such yellow Dutch bricks are found only on the earliest of Delmarva's colonial sites.³⁷ Dutch traders are known to have lived on the Eastern Shore in an effort to secure tobacco crops in a highly competitive market. The recovered artifacts and documentary evidence shows that although the Eastern Shore remained geographically isolated, it was not economically isolated.³⁸ Eastern Shore merchants and businessmen engaged in significant trade with the English, Dutch, and other international interests in the Atlantic world, and participated in lucrative trade between the Northern colonies and the European colonies in the Caribbean region. Such seventeenth century trade also expanded the social and cultural world of Eastern Shore residents. It is the combination of these recovered artifacts and features with the corroborating documentary evidence that makes the Eyreville site highly significant to the study of the early Chesapeake region.

Late Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century

Early in their marriage (1709), William Kendall (III) (1687-c. 1720), deeded the Cherrystone Creek house and the surrounding 900 acres to his wife, Sorrowful Margaret Custis (c. 1692-c. 1750). Property ownership by women at this time was very rare and it is not known why the Kendalls took this step. After his death, Sorrowful Margaret remained there until her death about 1750, at which time Custis Kendall (1708-c. 1781), great-grandson of Col. William Kendall and William Kendall (III)'s son, inherited the Cherrystone Creek property. The 1782 Northampton County land tax records show Custis Kendall "died possessed of 1,625 acres," which was reduced by sales to 704 acres by 1783. After Custis Kendall's death, the land was held by his son, William Kendall (1735-c. 1795) and, after William's death, by Custis Kendall's widow, Nancy Kendall (1755-1806) and their eldest son, Custis Kendall, Jr. In 1797, Nancy and Custis Kendall, Jr. sold the property to William Eyre in three transactions. The deed described the property as the land that was willed by William Kendall to his son (Custis Kendall). The will conveyed "300 acres of land fronting the river [i.e., Cherrystone Creek] so as to include the dwelling house, yard, garden, and the adjoining fruit trees to be laid off by lines running eastward and westward through the middle and most beautiful part of my plantation."³⁹

William Eyre (1722-1808) was a direct descendant (great-great-grandson) of Thomas Eyre II (c. 1650-1715), whose mother Susanna Baker Eyre Pott had married Col. William Kendall in 1658.

³⁶ Clem and Kiser, "Tobacco Pipes from 17th-Century Eyreville, Northampton County, Eastern Shore"; Hoffman, 61-63.

³⁷ Clem, "Archaeology at Eyreville, Northampton County."

³⁸ Lounsbury, 36-37.

³⁹ NCDB (1794-1800) 23:291. Other transactions conveying the Kendall property to the Eyres are NCDB 23:300 and 492. Allen B. Hamilton, *Northampton County, Virginia, Land Tax Records*, Vol. 1 (1782-1799) (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2018). Land tax records for 1797 record that William Eyre's land (689 acres) included land purchased from Nancy Kendall.

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William Eyre and his two brothers (John and Littleton) grew up at Col. Kendall's Cherrystone Creek property, where Kendall oversaw the boys' Eyre-related inheritance and prepared them as members of the Eastern Shore's emerging gentry class.

William Eyre's oldest brother, Littleton (Lyttleton) Eyre (1761-1789), inherited the family's homeplace at Eyre Hall (NRHP 1969, NHL 2012). Upon his brother Littleton's death, William Eyre's older brother John (1768-1855) became the owner of Eyre Hall and he and his wife, Ann Upshur Eyre, renovated and updated the family's historic home to its present appearance.⁴⁰ John Eyre lived with his older brother at Eyre Hall until the late 1790s, when the brothers bought several tracts of the former Kendall estate, as noted above.

Under William Eyre's ownership, the former Kendall property, located just north of Eyre Hall across Eyreville Creek, became known as Eyreville. By 1800, William Eyre and his wife, Grace D. Taylor Eyre (1780-1809), had constructed the two-story, brick dwelling that comprises the northern end of the present house at Eyreville.⁴¹ The three-bay-wide house, since altered, is presumed to have had a center passage with a room to either side. The all-brick construction features Flemish bond exterior walls and large interior end chimneys. Both the floor plan and the interior woodwork of this section of the house were altered in later years.

William Eyre appears to have focused most of his energies on his farming operations rather than being involved in political matters on the Eastern Shore. He did not serve in any elected positions, but did donate land for a county poor house.⁴² William, like his brother John, was a slaveholder and tax records show that he held 32 enslaved African Americans in 1800. Many of the enslaved inhabitants likely worked as farm laborers, while others would have been domestic workers. Personal property taxes and slave schedules show that from the late 1780s into the early 1800s, the Eyre family reduced the number of enslaved people they owned through sale and by willing ownership of individuals to other family members or friends, both of which were common practices among the slaveholding plantation class. A few of the enslaved African Americans were manumitted; their subsequent fates are not yet known. Despite such reductions, John and William Eyre were two of the largest slaveholders in Northampton County during the early decades of the nineteenth century.⁴³ In 1832, one of William Eyre's enslaved men, Carter, was among 18 enslaved people who fled the Eastern Shore aboard a stolen whaleboat and escaped to freedom in New York City. Two of the escapees had been enslaved by John Eyre. The Eyres hired a "slave catcher" to follow after the men, another common practice of the plantation class for recovering what they considered to be their personal property. At least one of John Eyre's slaves was returned to Northampton County.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ Lounsbury, 103-104.

⁴¹ Dr. Lounsbury notes that it is William who demolished the earlier Kendall buildings that might have still been standing on the property at the turn of the nineteenth century.

⁴² Lounsbury, 412; Northampton County Order Book, No. 34, 1801-1807, 20 (April 14, 1801).

⁴³ Lounsbury, 107; Northampton County Personal Property Tax Lists, 1799-1860; U.S. Census Slave Schedule, Northampton County, 1860.

⁴⁴ For a detailed account of the daring escape, see Alexandra Rosenberg, "Escaping Enslavement by Whaleboat, 1832" in *The Material World of Eyre Hall*, Lounsbury, ed., 2021:132-138.

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At present, it is not known where the enslaved people were housed at Eyreville. Some enslaved African Americans assigned to the household may have slept in the kitchen, on the floor in the bedroom of a White slaveholder, or in the attic, all of which were common practices during the slavery era. At nearby Chatham (DHR #065-0005), enslaved domestic workers used a second-floor bedroom accessed from a separate exterior entrance as a service area and sleeping space. Enslaved people assigned to agricultural and other types of labor likely occupied slave dwellings away from the plantation's domestic core but within view of an overseer. Based on historical research and field investigations at Eyreville, such slave dwellings likely were beyond the boundaries of the nominated property. A cemetery for the enslaved also is not within the nominated boundaries and its location has not yet been identified with certainty. Some Free Black inhabitants lived on the properties of Eyre Hall and Eyreville, as recorded in the personal property lists for each plantation's owner, but very little is known about them.

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

In 1827, William Littleton (Lyttleton) Eyre (1806-1852) turned 21 years old and assumed control of his inherited land. He had attended Dickinson College (PA), Hampden-Sydney in Virginia, and the newly opened University of Virginia for brief stints.⁴⁵ In 1828, William L. Eyre married Mary Burton Savage (1804-1866), of nearby Savage Neck, and the couple soon had two children. Though William L. Eyre did not complete studies at the universities he attended, he had a sharp mind and an energetic spirit and embarked on the "scientific farming" promoted at the time that included fertilization of fields, rotation of crops, new plowing methods, and new livestock breeding practices. In March 1834, Eyre, who described himself as a "young farmer," submitted a lengthy essay on "Farming and Manure of the Eastern Shore of Virginia" to Edmund Ruffin's *The Farmers' Register*, in which he detailed his method of using seaweed and oyster shells as fertilizer to the betterment of his cultivated fields (an experiment then in progress). The next year, Ruffin, the pioneering agronomist and publisher of *The Farmers' Register*, visited Eyre's farm to observe his practices. Ruffin gave high praise to the young farmer, noted the increase of productivity of the land, and admired Eyre's use of manure and crushed oyster shells as soil enhancements.⁴⁶

In addition to farming for subsistence and profit, William L. Eyre also undertook the breeding of blooded racehorses for sport. Horse racing was a prominent pastime for the wealthy gentry during the early nineteenth century and Eyre kept a detailed "Stud Book" documenting his breeding operations. Although John Eyre is known to have had a stallion that stood stud at Eyre Hall, his nephew's endeavors were more extensive and aimed at improving his status as a serious blood horse breeder. As Dr. Lounsbury notes, "William L. Eyre stands out as the greatest horse enthusiast

⁴⁵ Dr. Lounsbury details Eyre's expulsion from the University of Virginia for his participation in a student riot in 1825 that included attacks on professors and their pavilion homes. Lounsbury, 113-114.

⁴⁶ W.S.(sic) Eyre, "Farming and Manure of the Eastern Shore of Virginia," *The Farmers' Register*, 1, no. 12 (May 1834): 731; "Notes of a Hasty View of the Soil and Agriculture of Part of the County of Northampton," *Farmers' Register*, 3, no. 4 (August 1835):239, cited in Lounsbury, 115.

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in the family history.... [He] had grown up in a culture and family saturated in both utilitarian and recreational horses.” Just as he did with his agricultural experiments, Eyre was eager to share his breeding successes through reports to noted racing and breeding periodicals of the time, such as *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*.⁴⁷

William L. Eyre’s activities in horseracing included betting, and his resultant debts took a heavy toll on his personal property holdings. County record books show that he was forced to mortgage Eyreville and other property, accept money from friends and relatives, and even sell property long-held by the Eyre family (including part of Eyreville) to pay his gambling debts.⁴⁸

Such solvency issues did not dissuade William L. Eyre from adding substantially to the existing house at Eyreville. About 1839, the two-and-a-half-story brick section of Eyreville was added to the south end of the 1800 dwelling, more than doubling its footprint and presenting an image of prosperity. The center passage house features an elliptical archway and paneled woodwork; rooms to either side of the hall were equipped with carved marble mantelpieces. There are faint similarities between the Eyreville addition and the updated and more refined details and finishes completed at Eyre Hall in the 1820s, which William L. Eyre would have witnessed and lived in prior to taking up residence at Eyreville (Figure 17). Perhaps feeling that his father’s house was “small” and “outdated,” William may have wanted his house to appear as a contemporary, fashionable gentleman’s residence.

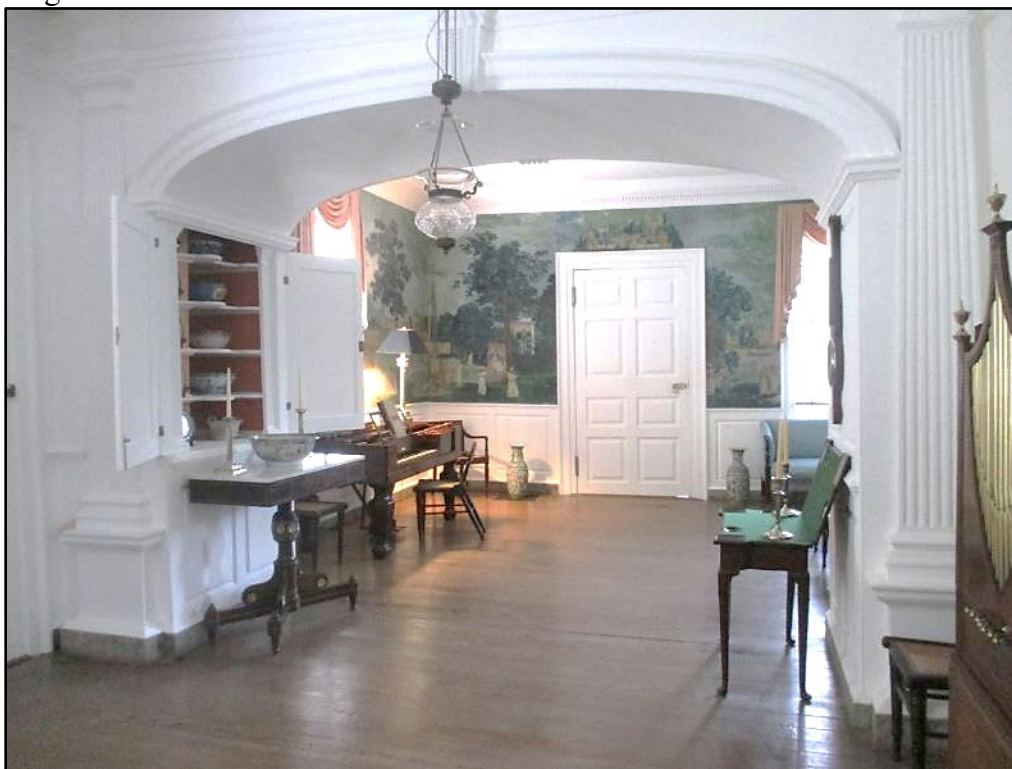


Figure 17. Eyre Hall (NHL) Center Hall, Looking North (Debra McClane, 2014)

⁴⁷ Lounsbury, 147-148.

⁴⁸ Lounsbury, 115.

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Northampton County land tax records for 1820 list William L. Eyre (“orphan” [not yet at his majority]) with 526.5 acres on the Hungars tract with a value of \$250 for buildings and 500.75 acres at Cheriton (Eyreville) with a value of \$1,500 for buildings. In 1840, following the completion of the new section of the house, William L. Eyre’s buildings were valued at \$4,000, which equaled the valuation for the buildings at Eyre Hall. Like his father, William L. Eyre was a slaveholder and the personal property records for 1840 list 51 enslaved individuals in his household (31 of whom were over 12 years old); in 1850, just a couple years before his death, federal census slave schedules show that William held 36 enslaved African Americans and his uncle John held 50 such individuals.⁴⁹

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

Eyreville passed to William L. and Mary Eyre’s only son and eldest child, Severn (1831-1914). Severn Eyre graduated from Princeton and earned a law degree from Harvard in 1852. In 1854, Severn married Margaret Stirling, and the couple lived in Baltimore; Margaret died within the year, however, and Severn returned to the Eastern Shore. Within months, Severn’s great-uncle John Eyre died at Eyre Hall, leaving Severn as his heir.⁵⁰ Records indicate that Severn Eyre and his mother, Mary, left Eyreville and moved to Eyre Hall beginning about 1855.

On the cusp of the Civil War, Severn Eyre assumed his father’s and his great-uncle’s property, including enslaved African Americans held on the property, and was one of the wealthiest men in Northampton County. The 1860 census records his household included 90 enslaved people and 10 slave houses, making him one of the county’s larger slaveholders and evidencing Eyreville’s continued dependence on forced labor for its operations. The 1861-1862 land and personal property tax records record that he owned 1,079 acres at Eyre Hall and 600.75 acres at Eyreville, four pleasure carriages, 24 horses and mules, 43 cattle, 80 hogs, and 90 sheep.⁵¹ Severn Eyre held no public or political offices, and it appears that the management of his land and property occupied his time.

During the Civil War, the Eastern Shore was largely controlled by Union forces, and Severn Eyre and his mother remained at Eyre Hall ostensibly as Union supporters—a stance taken likely more out of practicality than other sentiments. Throughout the war years, records show the decline in number and value of Severn Eyre’s land and livestock. Economic conditions brought on by war likely caused these declines. Additionally, the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President

⁴⁹ Allen B. Hamilton, *Northampton County, Virginia Land Tax Records Vol. 2 (1800-1825) and Vol. 3 (1826-1850)*; (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2018); Allen B. Hamilton, *Northampton County, Virginia Personal Property 1821-1850* (Millsboro, DE : Colonial Roots, 2016).

⁵⁰ John Eyre is buried at the family cemetery at Eyre Hall with his wife Ann (Anna) Upshur Eyre (1780-1829).

⁵¹ 1860 Census

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Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declared that all enslaved people in the rebelling Confederate States of America were free, which erased any personal wealth slaveholders claimed through the enslavement of individuals held by the system of chattel slavery. Severn Eyre's labor force declined as enslaved people fled to non-slaveholding states, to join Union forces camped locally, or, for Black men, to join the United States Colored Troops.⁵² Federal troops are known to have encamped on the Eyreville property, but physical damage to the Eyre holdings does not appear to have occurred or to have been substantial, likely due to the Eyres' stated support for the Union. Larger economic effects of the war were felt by the family, but their financial reserves provided security through the conflict.

In 1865, Severn Eyre married Margaret (Maggie) Parker (1840-1899) of Old Castle, located north of Eyreville across Cherrystone Creek. Severn's mother, Mary, died in 1866 and, beginning in the 1870s, Severn and Maggie Eyre and their three children spent long spans of time away from the Eastern Shore and in the regional cities of Norfolk, Washington D.C., and Baltimore and occupied their Eastern Shore properties as holiday and summer retreats. Maggie's parents, John and Ann Parker (formerly of Old Castle), moved into Eyreville during this time and, in 1879, Maggie's younger sister, Lucy, was married at the house.⁵³

Twentieth Century

During the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, Severn Eyre's farmland was leased to local farmers and occupied, in part, by numerous sharecropper families. Sharecropping emerged in Virginia after slavery ended and was a way for landowners to keep their holdings in production without having to pay workers to manage farming and livestock. In July 1904, Severn sold the Eyreville farm to R. Fulton Powell, Francis J. Purnell, and B.T. Tilghman of Worcester County, Maryland, for \$21,500.⁵⁴ The transaction may have been an investment for the group, which did not retain the property long.

A newspaper announcement from November 1904 advertised the public auction of a wide array of livestock, implements, and harvested crops to be held at "Eyreville Farm" (Figure 18). The seller, Arthur Downing Upshur Addison, a distant descendent of William Kendall, is identified in the 1900 census as a 47-year-old farmer who rented his farmland (assumed to be Eyreville); by 1910, Addison is listed as a retail merchant in Eastville.⁵⁵ The sale of Addison's livestock and implements came just months after Severn Eyre's sale of the property and it is assumed that the change in ownership also resulted in the end of Addison's lease of Eyreville.

⁵² Lounsbury, 119-120.

⁵³ Lounsbury, 121-123.

⁵⁴ NCBDB 55:486; Item in the *Peninsula Enterprise*, Volume 24, Number 2, July 30, 1904. The deed conveyed 620 acres of the farm, including the house site. Powell controlled ½ interest in the purchased and Tilghman and Purnell controlled ¼ each. In the deed, Severn Eyre reserved access to a right-of-way through the farm and the right to take oysters from the adjacent waters for three years beginning on January 1, 1905. Severn's signature on the deed was affirmed by a notary in the City of Baltimore, where he was living at the time.

⁵⁵ Miles Files; 1900 and 1910 census.

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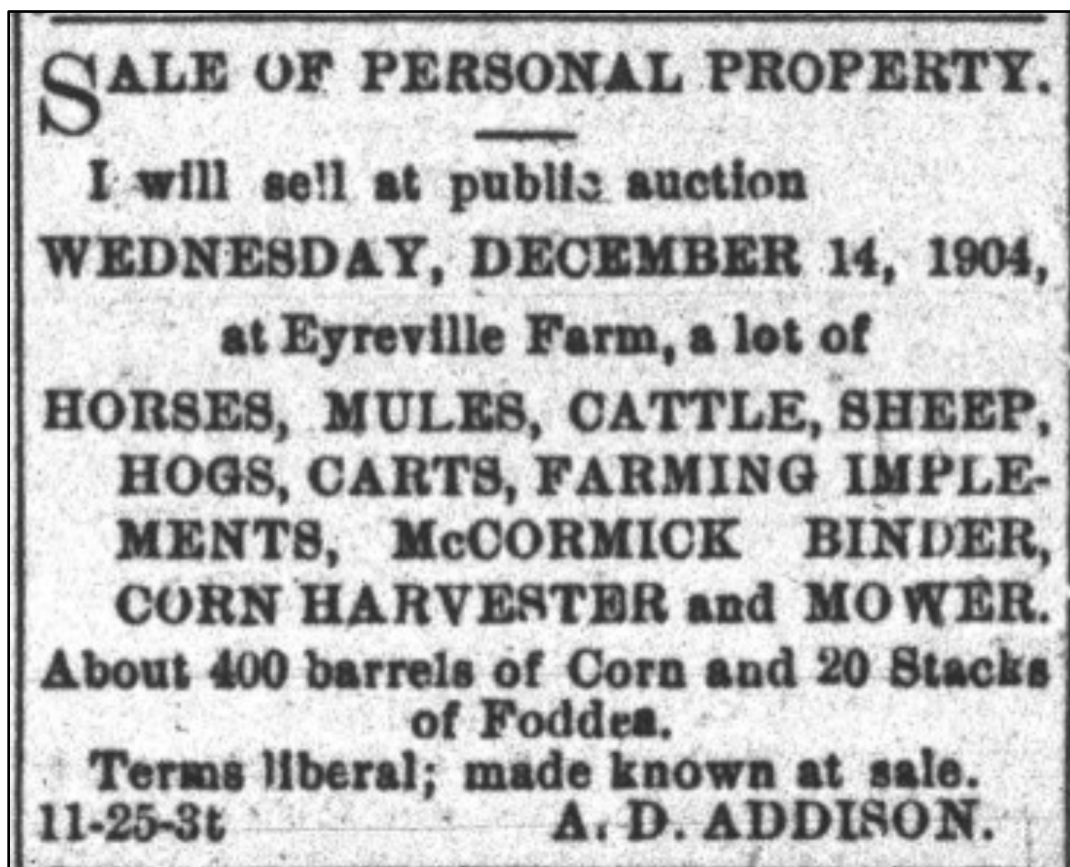


Figure 18. *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 25, Number 8, November 25, 1904

In September 1905, Northampton County native William Dixon Nottingham (1869-1938) purchased Eyreville from the Powell, Purnell, Tilghman consortium for \$15,000 and moved into the house with his family. Reservations made in the deed to Nottingham provide insight into the activities of Powell, Purnell, and Tilghman and their interest in Eyreville. The deed states that the grantors “expressly reserve all the timber of every kind [on the farm] with the privilege of cutting, hauling, and manufacturing the same within three years from 1 January 1906.” They also reserved free use and benefit of the “new settlement on said farm and two acres of land adjacent and the shanties around the mill” and use of the two new “tenements” recently built on the property.⁵⁶ The mill site was about halfway between the main road and the Eyreville house.

Nottingham, described in newspapers as a “trucker” (truck farmer), was a local businessman and was active in the social life of the Eastern Shore. Whitelaw notes that Nottingham added the main house’s front porches (front and side), which the newspaper described as “a handsome old place.”⁵⁷ In 1914, a photograph of the house appeared in a local newspaper showing the new porches (Figure 19).

⁵⁶ NCDB 57:425.

⁵⁷ “Eyreville Farm Sold,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 25, Number 52, September 29, 1905; Obituary, William Dixon Nottingham, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, November 23, 1938; Whitelaw, 203.

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The above is a picture of Ayreville, the home of Mr. W. Dixie Nottingham. This is one of the most beautiful homes in Northampton county. It is about two miles from Eastville, and situated on Cherrystone Creek, which is noted for its famous oysters. Mr. Nottingham purchased this farm ten years ago for about \$14,000. It contains 425 acres of land, and he recently refused \$75,000 for this valuable place. Mr. Nottingham is one of Northampton's most progressive farmers and successful business men.

Figure 19. *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 35, Number 23, March 14, 1914

Nottingham's brother, Carey Fentress "Fenn" Nottingham, joined his brother at Eyreville and farmed the land for about 18 years. Carey Nottingham, his wife, Fannie, and their daughters lived on the property. The Eyreville house saw the happy occasion of their daughter Elizabeth's wedding, but also was the site of her untimely funeral in 1932 when she was killed in an automobile accident on U.S. Route 13 not far from the house.⁵⁸ In 1925, after 20 years at Eyreville, W. Dixon Nottingham advertised at public auction the sale of a large portion of his personal property, which included agricultural equipment and livestock. The reasons for the sale are unstated, but occurred soon after his brother Carey Nottingham's death.⁵⁹

In 1930, a fire completely destroyed one of Eyreville's tenant houses that stood just a few hundred yards away from the main dwelling. A newspaper account of the fire stated that tenant S. Benjamin Tyler, his wife, and daughter occupied the house, and the loss was estimated at about \$4,000. Another fire was recorded at the main house on December 25, 1936. A newspaper item, presumed to have been placed by W. Dixon Nottingham, thanked the Eastville and Cape Charles fire

⁵⁸ "Elizabeth Nottingham Kelley," Obituary, *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 38, July 16, 1932.

⁵⁹ "A Public Auction of Valuable Personal Property," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 42, Number 50, December 12, 1925; "Mr. C. Fentress Nottingham," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 42, Number 27, June 6, 1925.

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companies for saving his home “from destruction by fire (Figure 20).”⁶⁰ No additional articles appear concerning the fire and field survey has not identified evidence of a fire from this period at the main house (the extant secondary dwelling dates to 1942).



Figure 20. *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 90, January 4, 1936

In 1938, W. Dixon Nottingham died at his home, Eyreville, and was buried in Cape Charles Cemetery. Nottingham’s obituary listed Guy L. Webster, Eyreville’s next owner, as a pallbearer at the funeral.⁶¹

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

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

⁶⁰ “Home Destroyed by Fire Sunday,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 43, Number 31, April 12, 1930; “A Card of Thanks,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 90, January 4, 1936.

⁶¹ “Elizabeth Nottingham Kelly,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 38, July 16, 1932; “William Dixon Nottingham,” *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 241, November 26, 1938.

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several adjacent parcels of land formerly associated with the 1,000-acre farm.⁶² Webster's purchase of the Eyreville house and property in 1942 resulted in a renovation of the house and the addition of dependencies and outbuildings on the property.

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

During Webster's ownership, the Eyreville house was enlarged and refurbished. In the main house, Webster added an elevator, which stands at the southeast corner of the center hall. He also constructed the two-story, west side addition to the center hyphen connecting the Period I and Period II house; the addition holds storage areas and bathrooms. At the back (north end) of the house, Webster added a new kitchen wing and a corridor (or enclosed passage) that connected to a series of dependencies containing a ballroom/party room, plant room, and a pool house. The pool house and elevator were added for the convenience of Carrie Webster, who had contracted polio.⁶³ Buildings added to the Eyreville property at this time include the secondary dwelling, the oyster house, the doll house (a building used for display of Jane Webster's doll collection), the garage, garden, and sheds. The quality of the Colonial Revival architecture of these additions, especially the oyster house and the enclosed passage and attached spaces, suggest the involvement of an architect and perhaps the influence of the restorations that were being completed at Colonial Williamsburg about this time. The use of the enclosed passage, referred to by others as a "curtain," is seen on other historic Eastern Shore houses in the area and shows a knowledge of historical regional forms.

A garden is mentioned in the 1797 conveyance of the Eyreville property from Nancy Kendall to William Eyre, but may have referred to a vegetable garden. It is assumed that a pleasure garden graced the Eyreville property during the tenure of the Eyre family. Carrie Webster died in 1958, in the 1960s, Guy Webster married Jane Hunter Ferguson (1907-1991). Jane Webster was actively involved with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Garden Club and the Eyreville house and garden were on the annual Historic Garden Tour in 1969. She also made notable financial contributions to the garden club. In the late 1960s, Harvey Moore was superintendent of Webster's Eyreville farm operations, which included a wildfowl sanctuary.⁶⁴

⁶² Eyreville Sold for \$79,021.91," *Eastern Shore Herald*, Volume 53, Number 418, April 25, 1942. For information on parcels Webster purchased, see NCDB 176:101 (763.87 acres), NCDB 103:383 ("Hyslop Farm" the northeast portion of farm purchased from the Warrens and Dixons), and NCDB 104:174 (a two acre parcel purchased from Whitehead).

⁶³ Eyre Baldwin, Personal Communication, January 12, 2023.

⁶⁴ "Mystery Death of Wildfowl Probed by Wildlife Officials," *Suffolk News-Herald*, Volume 46, Number 31, February 5, 1968:1.

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For most of the time he owned Eyreville, Webster's Eyreville Farms, Inc., remained the legal, corporate owner. In 1969, he transferred the western portion of the farm (including the historic core of Eyreville) to himself and his second wife, Jane; in 1973, he conveyed two additional tracts associated with the farm from the corporation to his personal ownership.⁶⁵ Webster died in 1976 and was buried in Cambridge, Maryland, near his mother, father, siblings, and first wife, Carrie. His second wife, Jane, remained at Eyreville a few more years; in 1978, she held an auction of the extensive antique furnishings, art, and other collectibles from the Eyreville house (see Additional Documentation 11). In 1979, Jane Webster sold the Eyreville property to Eyreville Acres, a Virginia partnership, which then sold the property in 1985 to the Buynr Farm Association, headed by Oswald S. Buynr (1914-2001).⁶⁶ Buynr, retired vice-president and treasurer of Buynr, Old, and Eaton Wholesale Hardware in Princess Anne County/City of Virginia Beach, retired to the farm and remained there until his death. His wife, Mary Louis W. Buynr (married in 1945), also remained at Eyreville until her death in 2017. Eyreville's extensive agricultural acreage remains in productive use under the ownership of the Buynr's three sons, Mason, Grandy, and Roger.

G. L. Webster Canning Company

Webster's arrival in Northampton County coincided with the "Golden Age" of Northampton County agriculture. Around 1900, the production of vegetables and seafood for commercial export began to increase rapidly on the Eastern Shore, advanced by the arrival of the railroad which replaced shipment by vessel as the primary transportation method. Irish and sweet potatoes were the initial cash crops and remained so for decades, although tomatoes also were a prominent crop. One of the first canning factories on the Eastern Shore was John W. Taylor's enterprise in Mappsville (Accomack County), which canned tomatoes. Northampton County canning operations began to emerge as well, including the Chandler & Ballard Canning Company and John H. Dulaney & Son at Exmore, Eastern Shore Canning Company at Machipongo, and the Northampton Canning Company at Nassawadox.⁶⁷

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

⁶⁵ NCDB 164:615; 176:101.

⁶⁶ NCDB 196:268, NCDB 196:270, NCDB217:440, NCDB 217:443.

⁶⁷Dames & Moore, "Historic Architectural Survey Settlements, Villages, and Towns of Northampton County, Virginia." Submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond. Submitted by Dames & Moore, Bethesda, MD, 1996.:5-15.

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tomatoes, which were hand harvested. In 1924, Webster was a driving force in establishing tomatoes as a profitable crop in Northampton County and, in agreement with farmers who were willing to plant the crop, built a \$75,000 tomato cannery at his Cheriton factory (Figure 21).⁶⁸



Figure 21. 1930 Postcard of Webster's Factory in Cheriton
(Jean Merritt Mihalyka Collection, Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomack, VA
https://eshore.iath.virginia.edu/sites/default/files/phc.espl_mihalyka.cheriton.glwebster_1930.jpg)

Webster employed many Eastern Shore residents as managers and administrators at his Cheriton plant, many of whom are identified as such in local obituaries. While the administration was made up of White residents, most of the laborers were African Americans, including African American women (see Additional Documentation 12 and 13). Some Black factory workers are known to have lived in tenant dwellings at Eyre Hall, where Webster leased property for cultivation.⁶⁹ Webster also employed migrant laborers who were housed in primitive barracks-like housing encircled by tall barbed-wire fences on the factory grounds (see Additional Documentation 14). Other companies also used such camps, possibly as a way to mitigate any negative feelings in the community toward workers who were not permanent residents. Such substandard housing was commonly provided by other large canning factories on the Eastern Shore and similar "camps" continued in use for migrant farm workers into the late twentieth century.⁷⁰ Many of the seasonal migrants, the majority of whom were Black, were from Florida and other southern states, but

⁶⁸ G.L. Webster Company, Inc. and Emory J. Steelman, Record No. 2002, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Richmond, Feb. 20, 1939:2-3; "Cannery is Aid to Northampton Farmers," *Accomack News*, May 16, 1924:Section 2:9; "Virginia Hangs Up Record in Lima Beans," *The Virginia Star*, September 26, 1929; "Canning of Potatoes (sic) Discussed by Farmers," *Accomack News*, November 28, 1924:7.

⁶⁹ Lounsbury, 159-160, 177.

⁷⁰ Dames & Moore, 1996:5-18.

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during the early 1940s, during the labor shortage associated with World War II, Bahamian workers were brought in to keep the cannery operating. During the Great Depression, like many industrial factories, Webster used company tokens to pay his workers, which could then be redeemed at Webster's own store or at select local businesses (Figure 22). Payment of workers with company-issued "scrip" was outlawed in 1938 as part of the Fair Labor Standards Act, passed by Congress as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal agenda.



Figure 22. G.L.W. Co. Token (Collection of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society)

The importance of Webster's canning factory to Eastern Shore agriculture is hard to overstate; in 1938, industry experts cited it as "as large or larger than the output from any one plant in the United States" and it also was "the largest corporation in either of the two counties comprising the Eastern Shore of Virginia."⁷¹

During its height, Webster's factory employed between 400 and 500 workers year round; the personnel ballooned to 1,000 to 1,200 workers during the peak of packing season. The canning company provided a ready market for local produce and encouraged diversification of crops, which made local agriculture profitable (see Additional Documentation 15). After just a few years in operation, the local newspaper touted the cannery's arrival as a major factor in the advancement of agriculture in the county:

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

⁷¹ Ibid.

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Each season since the Cheriton plant opened has found a few more farmers following out diversification, even though it may be on a small scale. In every way the cannery management aids the grower as far as economic law allows.⁷²

By the late 1930s, Webster estimated that his company spent in excess of \$461,000 (equivalent to over \$9 million in 2023) annually in payroll, farm rental, and farm produce; at the same time, Webster's Cheriton plant was estimated for insurance purposes at a value of \$1 million (equivalent of over \$21 million in 2023). In the 1940s, the company was again recognized as a progressive agricultural force on the Eastern Shore:

Distinguished in the farming and canning industries as a leading contributor of new ideas and proper methods of operation, G. L. Webster Company, Inc., Cheriton, is highly valued as a great asset to the progress and prosperity of the area.⁷³

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

⁷² "Cannery is Aid to Northampton Farmers."

⁷³ "Webster Company Highly Valued," *Eastern Shore Herald*, July 4, 1942.

⁷⁴ "Million-Dollar Fire Destroys Va. Food Plant," *Washington Post*, July 28, 1945:5. Another fire in 1959, also estimated at \$1 million in damages, occurred in November just before the end of canning season. Once again, the factory was repaired.

⁷⁵ "Parade of Progress: Who's Who in Northampton County: G.L. Webster Co. Helps Stabilize Produce Industry," *Eastern Shore Herald*, August 8, 1941; "Items About Banks, Trust Companies, &C," *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, June 5, 1937, Vol. 144, No. 3754:3373; Paul Strong (current treasurer, Cape Charles Rotary Club), personal communication, electronic message, April 26, 2023. Mr. Strong noted that at the time Webster was president of the Rotary Club, the members "met on the Pennsylvania R.R. Steamer when it was docked during the noon hour at the ferry boat terminal in Cape Charles."

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Virginia.⁷⁶ The plant closed in 1988, but several of the factory buildings remain standing on the east side of the former railroad tracks just outside of the Cheriton town limits on Webster Road.⁷⁷

COMPARABLE PROPERTIES

There are not many properties on the Eastern Shore that have the breadth of documented resources comparable to Eyreville. Certainly, there are several properties in Northampton County with extant architectural resources dating, in whole or in part, to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries; but none of those properties also have excavated, intact archaeological features that date to the early seventeenth century. For this reason, the collection of extant architectural resources (dating from 1800-1942) and the intact archaeological deposits (dating from c. 1620-1630 to c. 1680) at Eyreville make it one of the most important historic properties on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Architectural Resources

The Eastern Shore of Virginia holds several architectural resources dating from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth centuries. Eyreville, an evolved Federal style dwelling dating from 1800 through 1839 with twentieth-century Colonial Revival additions, compares favorably to other architectural resources built in Northampton County about the same time and is an important addition to the list of notable properties occupied by some of the Shore's socially prominent families.

Two nearby properties that share architectural details and familial ties to Eyreville are Old Castle (VDHR #065-0020, NRHP-eligible) and Kendall Grove (VDHR #065-0060, NRHP 1982). Old Castle (18263 Old Castle Road), which stands north of the Eyreville Peninsula across Old Castle Creek, was built before 1768 as evidenced by a plat drawing. It was home to John S. and Ann F. Parker in the early nineteenth century, an inheritance from John's parents, Dr. Jacob and Ann Parker. In 1891, Severn Eyre IV (1831-1914), who married the Parkers' daughter Margaret ("Maggie"), purchased the house. Old Castle has a wide gambrel-roof and is of frame construction with a brick end wall. The architectural feature it shared with Eyreville is the "curtain," or enclosed passage, which extended from the side of the house and turned in an elbow shape to connect to a kitchen.⁷⁸ Eyreville's passage, added in the 1940s, is likely a twentieth-century reference to this Eastern Shore traditional form.

Kendall Grove (5302 Kendall Grove Road), located about five miles north of Eyreville on Mattawoman Creek on Old Town Neck, is a two-story, center-passage, frame house built about 1813 with improvements made about 1840. The house was erected for George Parker and Margaret

⁷⁶ "Bicycling Executive Supervises Changes at Eastern Shore Plant," *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 26, 1973:44.

⁷⁷ The Cheriton Planning Commission, in cooperation with the Cheriton Town Council, *Town of Cheriton, Virginia Comprehensive Plan*. Update to original prepared by Accomack-Northampton Planning District, 1999, 2010:10. Accessed on March 20, 2023 on the Town of Cheriton website at: <http://townofcheriton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Comp-Plan-PDF.pdf>. In 1999, Powercat North America, a manufacturer of catamarans, purchased the factory buildings for a production facility, but is presently vacant and owned by a private LLC.

⁷⁸ Forman, 139. Forman states that the curtain at Old Castle, which is no longer extant but ran about 45' in length, "must have been one of the longest outside passageways in Virginia."

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Eyre Parker, who were part of two of the Eastern Shore's leading families. Margaret Eyre was sister to John Eyre, who inherited Eyre Hall, and William Eyre, who built the Period I section of Eyreville. Kendall Grove's interior features fine plaster moldings, King of Prussia marble fireplace surrounds, and later (c. 1840) Greek Revival details. Like Old Castle, Kendall Grove also features a long passage at the back that leads to a wood-frame kitchen-laundry dependency.

A house that was completed about the time of Eyreville is Cessford (16546 Courthouse Road, VDHR #214-0001), located in the courthouse town of Eastville. Cessford is a Federal-style dwelling that is five bays wide, two bays deep, and executed in a Flemish brick bond. It is two-and-a-half stories tall plus a cellar, and has a center hall plan with one room to either side. This dwelling is representative of the domestic architecture constructed in Eastville during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Although documentation suggests that the house was begun around 1801, the house attained its current appearance during the ownership of John Kerr, who purchased it in 1832. It is said to be the latest Federal-style dwelling constructed in Eastville.⁷⁹

The property most closely associated with Eyreville, however, is Eyre Hall (VDHR #065-0008, 3215 Eyre Hall Drive), the National Historic Landmark property to the south across Eyreville Creek. Brothers John and William Eyre grew up at Eyre Hall, which was built by their grandfather Littleton Eyre (1710-1768) in the 1750s. John Eyre and his wife, Ann, are credited with updating and enlarging Eyre Hall during the 1820s. William Eyre built a handsome, but comparatively modest house at Eyreville (Period I), which was enlarged by his son, William L. Eyre, in the late 1830s. William L. Eyre's house reflected influence of the fashionable finery seen at Eyre Hall including the center passage archway, marble fireplace mantels, and interior woodwork.

Eyreville contributes to the Eastern Shore's fine collection of early-nineteenth-century houses and, although modified in the early twentieth century, retains much of its original material and its historical appearance as an evolved house. The overall form of Eyreville was established by the 1839 addition (Period III house), which was then modified in the early twentieth century by construction of front and side porches and a long dependency wing about 1942. The earliest (Period I) section of the house dates to about 1800 and, although altered on the interior, that section retains its exterior form of a two-story, three-bay-wide, brick house executed in a Flemish bond pattern and exhibiting Federal-era form and style. The 1839 section (Period III) of the house consists of a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay-wide, brick houses exhibiting a Flemish bond pattern on the front and three-course American bond on the sides and featuring Greek Revival-style details. Later additions, including the Colonial Revival-style porches, have attained their own historical significance and contribute to the overall character of the house. Eyreville reflects the prosperity of its owners over time and illustrates the work of knowledgeable and skilled craftsmen who were available to early-nineteenth-century Eastern Shore residents. The names of the architects, builders, and craftsmen who executed these designs, however, remain, as yet, unknown.

⁷⁹ Jean Mihalyka with assistance from Mary C. Taylor, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "Cessford, 214-0001," 2003. Copy on file Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

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Archaeological Resources

The archaeological features discovered to date at Eyreville are among the earliest excavated on Virginia's Eastern Shore and the site is believed to be one of the earliest sites on the Delmarva Peninsula. The only other early Colonial-era site excavated to any degree on Virginia's Eastern Shore is the Arlington Archaeological Site (44NH0092; VDHR #065-0001) on Old Plantation Creek, which was a seventeenth-century house built for the Custis family.⁸⁰ The house, however, was a much larger and more elaborate building than the houses constructed for John Howe and William Kendall at Eyreville. Arlington House, built c. 1670, is said to have been "the most magnificent mansion in the Chesapeake." Archaeology conducted at Arlington indicates it was a double-pile, brick dwelling, identical to the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg, and, according to a description provided in a 1709 estate record, was three stories in height. Arlington fell into disuse sometime in the early eighteenth century and all the ruins of the abandoned plantation eventually disappeared until archaeological investigations unearthed them in the 1980s and 1990s.⁸¹ Along with the Arlington House's foundation, features identified at the site included a slot trench, presumed to be associated with a puncheon fence/palisade, and evidence of an earthfast building that pre-dated the Custis occupation (c. 1619). Researchers stated that, "In addition to the unparalleled historical associations with Custis, Washington, and Lee, the Arlington site contains the archaeological remains representative of the entire evolution of English settlement of Virginia."⁸²

Like Arlington, the Eyreville property is historically associated with some of the important English families who settled and improved Northampton County – including the Kendall and Eyre families. Eyre Hall, a National Historic Landmark also owned by the Eyre family, is another obviously comparable property, but archaeological investigations there have not been extensive when compared to Eyreville and the Arlington Archaeological Site. Should such investigations ever be undertaken, opportunities to compare the findings about each place's history are likely to yield significant information for these two properties and for the Eastern Shore's larger history.

⁸⁰ Jean M. Mihalyka and Pamela A. Schenian, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, for the Arlington Foundation, Inc., National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Arlington Archaeological Site, 2008. Copy on file, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond. The Arlington Archaeological Site was listed in the NRHP in 2008 for its significance under Criterion B at the statewide level of significance and under Criterion D at the national level of significance.

⁸¹ Nicholas M. Lucketti with contributions by Edward A. Chappell, and Beverley A. Straub, *Archaeology at Arlington: Excavations at the Ancestral Custis Plantation, Northampton County, Virginia* ([Richmond, VA]: The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1999).

⁸² Lucketti, 33.

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Newspapers and Periodicals

Accomack News
Commercial and Financial Chronicle
Eastern Shore Herald
The Farmers Register
Richmond Times-Dispatch
The Virginia Star
Washington Post

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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;
Northampton County Courthouse, Eastville

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 6.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.32055	Longitude: -75.98352
2. Latitude: 37.32091	Longitude: -75.98154
3. Latitude: 37.32063	Longitude: -75.98162

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- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4. Latitude: 37.32071 | Longitude: -75.98114 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.32108 | Longitude: -75.98128 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.32123 | Longitude: -75.98163 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.32015 | Longitude: -75.98012 |
| 8. Latitude: 37.31967 | Longitude: -75.98223 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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

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

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass approximately 6.5 acres of the 17-acre Tax Parcel No. 76-A-1 as recorded by the Northampton County Commissioner of the Revenue Real Estate Assessment. The nominated property occupies most of the southern portion of the parcel and is delineated on the attached Tax Parcel Map, which was obtained from the Northampton County, Virginia, Geographic Information System mapping website on April 19, 2023. The maps and layers on the county's website are updated quarterly. The nominated property's true and correct boundary also is shown on the attached Aerial View, which has a bar scale of 1"=188'.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property boundary encompasses about 6.5 acres of Tax Parcel No. 76-A-1 and encompasses the area containing the extant historic dwelling and outbuildings, its immediate historic setting, and recorded archaeological site 44NH0507. Although the nominated property represents a small percentage of the historical farm acreage, it contains a concentration of significant historic resources, both architectural and archaeological, that are associated with Eyreville's period of significance and areas of significance. Twentieth-century outbuildings directly north of the nominated property, primarily agricultural-related structures, are not included in the nominated property because they postdate Eyreville's period of significance. The integrity of Eyreville's larger setting, however, is preserved by the continued agricultural uses of the considerable acreage adjacent to the nominated property, the presence of Eyreville Creek and adjacent inlets and waterways, and the lack of extensive incompatible development in what continues to be a rural area where agriculture is the principal land use.

Eyreville

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian; Michael Clem, VDHR Eastern Regional Archaeologist, Michael B. Barber, PhD, VDHR State Archaeologist; Contributions by Jenean Hall, Historical Researcher and Carl R. Lounsbury, PhD, Architectural Historian

organization: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian

street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225

e-mail: dmccclane1@verizon.net

telephone: 804/233-3890

date: June 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Eyreville

City or Vicinity: Cape Charles

County: Northampton State: VA

Photographer: Debra A. McClane; DHR Staff (Michael Clem, Marc C. Wagner, Austin Walker)

Date Photographed: 2016; 2018/2019

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Photo 1 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0001
Looking north at front (south) elevation (Period III house) |
| Photo 2 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0002
Looking northwest at east side elevation |
| Photo 3 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0003
Looking southwest at Period I house, porch addition, and rear kitchen addition |

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- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Photo 4 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0004
Looking south at rear elevation |
| Photo 5 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0005
Looking northeast at west side elevation (Period I house) |
| Photo 6 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0006
Looking east at front porch |
| Photo 7 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0007
Detail of windows, south elevation |
| Photo 8 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0008
Detail of dated brick on east elevation of porch addition |
| Photo 9 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0009
Looking south at adjoined dependencies and rear of house |
| Photo 10 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0010
Exterior, Ballroom, looking west |
| Photo 11 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0011
Exterior, brick passage |
| Photo 12 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0012
Exterior Pool house, looking east |
| Photo 13 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0013
Interior, first floor entrance hall, looking north (Period III house) |
| Photo 14 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0014
Interior, first floor entrance hall, looking south (Period III house) |
| Photo 15 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0015
Interior, first floor east room, looking southwest (Period III house) |
| Photo 16 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0016
Interior, first floor east room, mantel (Period III house) |
| Photo 17 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0017
Interior, first floor west room, looking northwest (Period III house) |
| Photo 18 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0018
Interior, first floor west room, mantel (Period III house) |
| Photo 19 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0019
Interior, second floor, center hall (Period III house) |
| Photo 20 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0020
Interior, second floor, west room, looking northwest (Period III house) |
| Photo 21 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0021
Interior, first floor, kitchen, looking southeast (Period I house) |
| Photo 22 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0022
Interior, first floor, rear east room, looking south (Period I house) |
| Photo 23 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0023
Interior, stair hall, second floor landing (Period II house) |
| Photo 24 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0024
Interior, second floor, east room, mantel (Period I house) |
| Photo 25 of 38 | VA_NorthamptonCounty_Eyreville_0025
Interior, second floor, west room, looking northwest (Period I house) |

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

Figures

- Figure 1. Aerial View of Eyreville Property Showing Main Dwelling and Associated Outbuildings within Wooded Yard, Looking Southeast.
- Figure 2. Detail, West Exterior Wall (Period I House) Showing Inscribed Bricks
- Figure 3. Mantel in East Room of Period I House, Looking Northeast.
- Figure 4. Stairhall Looking North; Opening leads to Period I house.
- Figure 5. Detail of Entrance into Period III House Showing Elaborate Surround, Painted Brick, and Ghosting from Previous Porch Structure.
- Figure 6. Looking South Through Entrance Hall of Period III House. Note archway dividing hall and elevator cab in upper left (southeast) corner of hallway.
- Figure 7. First Floor, East Room, Wall and Ceiling Molding
- Figure 8. First Floor, West Room (library), Detail of Door Casing
- Figure 9. Looking South Through Center Hall on Second Floor.
- Figure 11. An aerial view of Eyreville with the Chesapeake Bay in the distance.

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- Figure 12. Aerial photograph (2019) of the feature discovered at the initial "tree hole" area at Eyreville believed to represent the Howe house (c. 1630s).
- Figure 13. Aerial photograph (2018) of archaeological site what is believed to be one of the houses built by William Kendall in the mid- to late 1600s.
- Figure 14. Sketch of brick outline at archaeological site of c. 1657 Kendall house.
- Figure 15. Farthings dating to the 1620s and 1630s collected at 44NH0507.
- Figure 16. Native American pipe bowl recovered at 44NH0507 showing bird decoration.
- Figure 17. Eyre Hall (NHL) Center Hall, Looking North
- Figure 18. [Sale of Personal Property] Eastern Shore Herald, Volume 25, Number 8, November 25, 1904
- Figure 19. [Eyreville] Eastern Shore Herald, Volume 35, Number 23, March 14, 1914
- Figure 20. [A Card of Thanks] Eastern Shore Herald, Volume 53, Number 90, January 4, 1936
- Figure 21. 1930 Postcard of Webster's Factory in Cheriton

Additional Documentation

1. Partial floor plan Of Eyreville Main Dwelling indicating periods of construction.
2. Aerial view of part of Eyreville property showing locations of archaeological site features (44NH0507), 2018.
3. Plan view of the bulkhead entrance to the cellar of the presumed Kendall house at 44NH0507.
4. Detail view of sandstone slabs lining bottom of cellar floor of presumed Kendall house at 44NH0507.
5. Clusters of pipe fragments have been found at 44NH0507 and might represent dumping episodes
resulting from cleaning the hearth in the newer (c. 1657) structure.
6. These pipe bowls and stems recovered at 44NH0507 are examples of Native American pipes, which
were made from local clays that usually fired pale brown or reddish brown.
7. Native American pipe bowl collected at 44NH0507 showing flying bird decoration.
8. The English and Dutch made pipes recovered at 44NH0507 feature rounded belly bowls and are made
from white clay.
9. Eyreville Doll House, Looking Northeast, April 1960.
10. Eyreville Doll House, Interior, April 1960.
11. Catalogue Cover for Auction of "The Collection of Mrs. Jane Webster at Eyreville Plantation"
(1978).
12. Migratory agricultural workers grading cabbages at the Webster Canning Company, Cheriton,
Virginia, July 1940.
13. Entrance to Webster Canning Company at Cheriton, Virginia, July 1940.
14. Barbed wire-enclosed barracks for migratory labors at Webster Canning Company, Cheriton,

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Virginia, July 1940.

15. "Eastern Shore of Virginia - Most Fertile Trucking Area in the United States," Advertising Poster

for G.L. Webster Canning Co., Cheriton, VA (c. 1920-1939).

16. Plat of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of W.D. Nottingham, 1934.

17. Plat of the Yard of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of Guy L. Webster, 1942.

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

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

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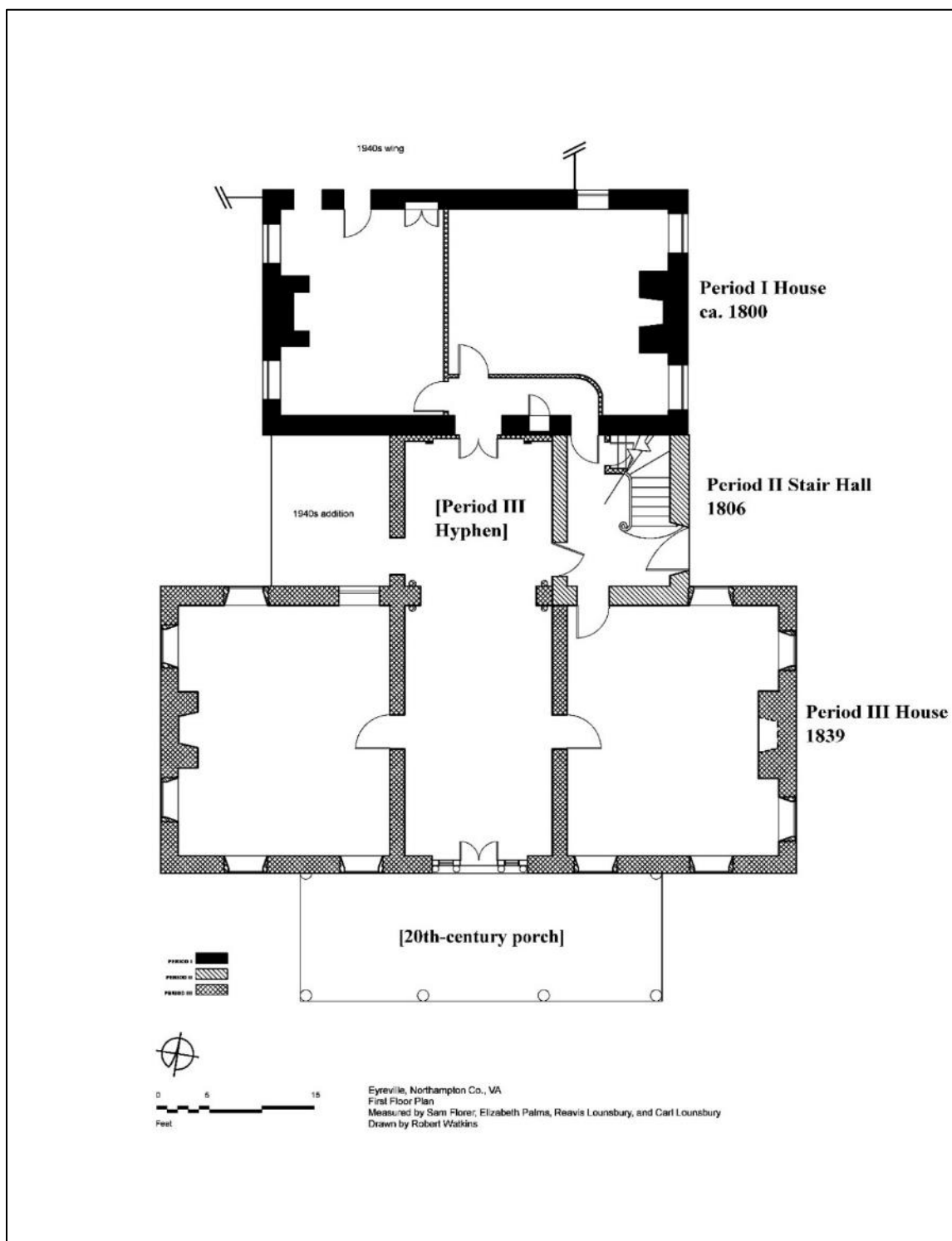
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1. Partial floor plan of Eyreville Main Dwelling indicating periods of construction.
Courtesy Dr. Carl Lounsbury.

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2. Aerial view of part of Eyreville property showing locations of archaeological site features (44NH0507), 2018.
North is at top of photograph. Courtesy: VDHR.

KEY

1. Post-in-ground house likely built by John Howe c. 1630-c. 1637
2. Probable house built by Kendall c. 1657-c. 1658
3. Possible house built by Kendall c. 1682
4. Well with 17th century debris at the surface
5. Main dwelling
6. Garage
7. Shed

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3. Plan view of the bulkhead entrance to the cellar of the presumed William Kendall house at 44NH0507. Note that the cellar floor is paved in its entirety by well-mortared sandstone slabs that are approximately two-feet-square and two-inches-thick. Courtesy: VDHR

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4. Detail view of sandstone slabs lining bottom of cellar floor of presumed Kendall house at 44NH0507.
Courtesy: VDHR.

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5. Clusters of pipe fragments have been found at 44NH0507 and might represent dumping episodes resulting from cleaning the hearth in the newer (c. 1657-c. 1658) structure. These fragments were recovered in the earlier (c. 1630-c.1637) post-in-ground feature and include English-, Dutch-, and Native American-made pipes. Native American pipes were reddish brown or pale brown and the bowls were decorated with incised motifs. The English and Dutch pipes were made from white clay. The English stems were typically plain and featured no decoration or defining marks. Dutch pipe stems often were highly decorative and included fleur-de-lis and other floral decorations as seen on these examples. Courtesy: VDHR

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6. These pipe bowls and stems recovered at 44NH0507 are examples of Native American pipes, which were made from local clays that usually fired pale brown or reddish brown. The pipes are identified as products of Algonquian peoples whose pipes typically featured elongated-cone "elbows." Mid-Atlantic Algonquians also embellished their bowls with stamped decoration, such as geometric features, birds, deer, or flora. Courtesy: VDHR

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7. Native American pipe bowl collected at 44NH0507 showing flying bird decoration.
Courtesy: VDHR

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8. The English- and Dutch-made pipes recovered at 44NH0507 feature rounded belly bowls and are made from white clay. A significant number of Eyreville pipes bear the marks of Dutch makers, as seen in this photograph. The maker "EB," seen on the pipe bowl at the right, has been identified as Edward Bird of Amsterdam, who was one of the most prolific and successful pipe makers of the era. Courtesy: VDHR

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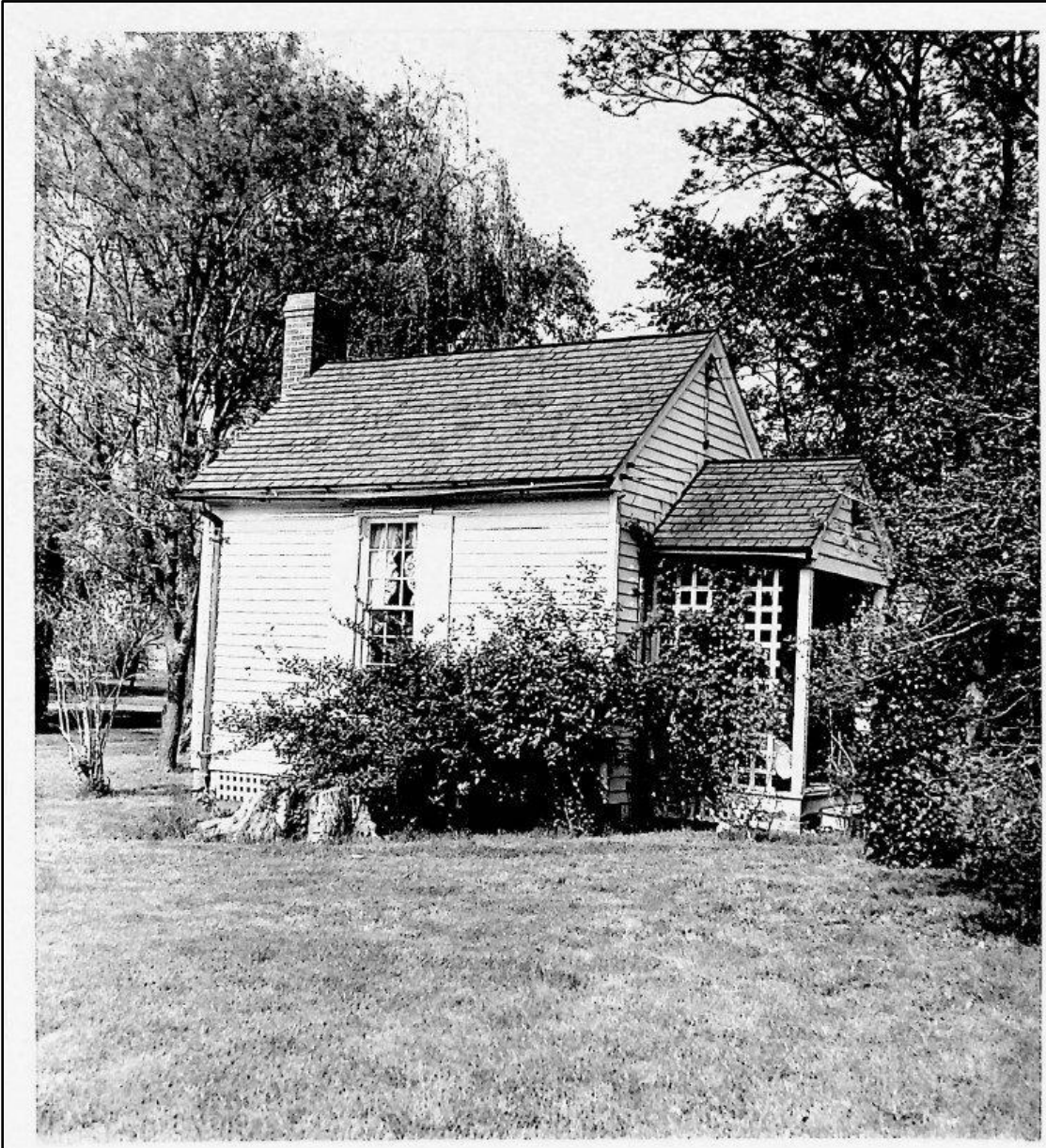
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9. Eyreville Doll House, Looking Northeast, April 1960. John Robertson, photographer. In the "Robertson Collection," Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society, Onancock, VA.

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

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

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

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

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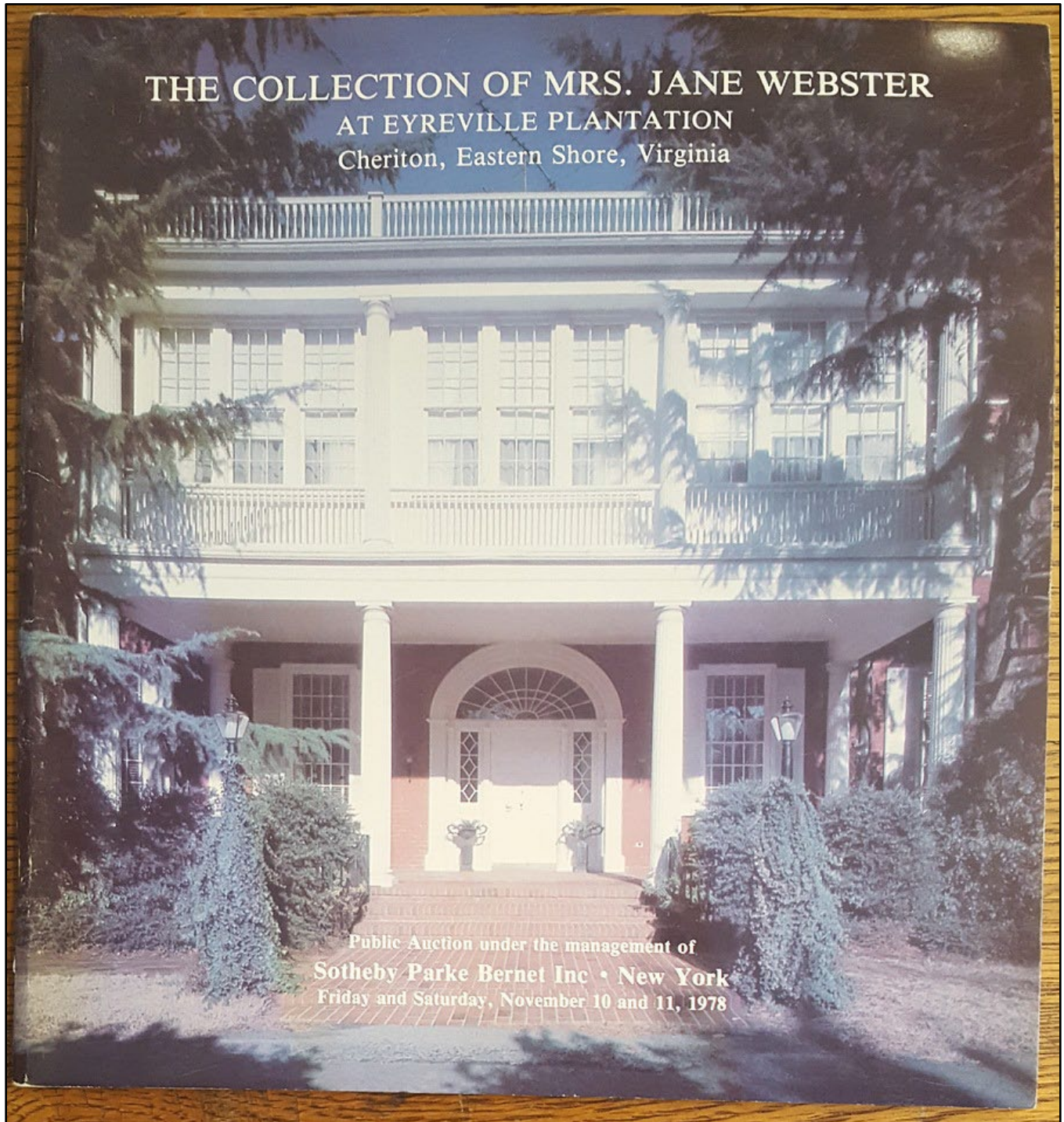
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11. Catalogue Cover for Auction of "The Collection of Mrs. Jane Webster at Eyreville Plantation" (1978).
Courtesy DHR.

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

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

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

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

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

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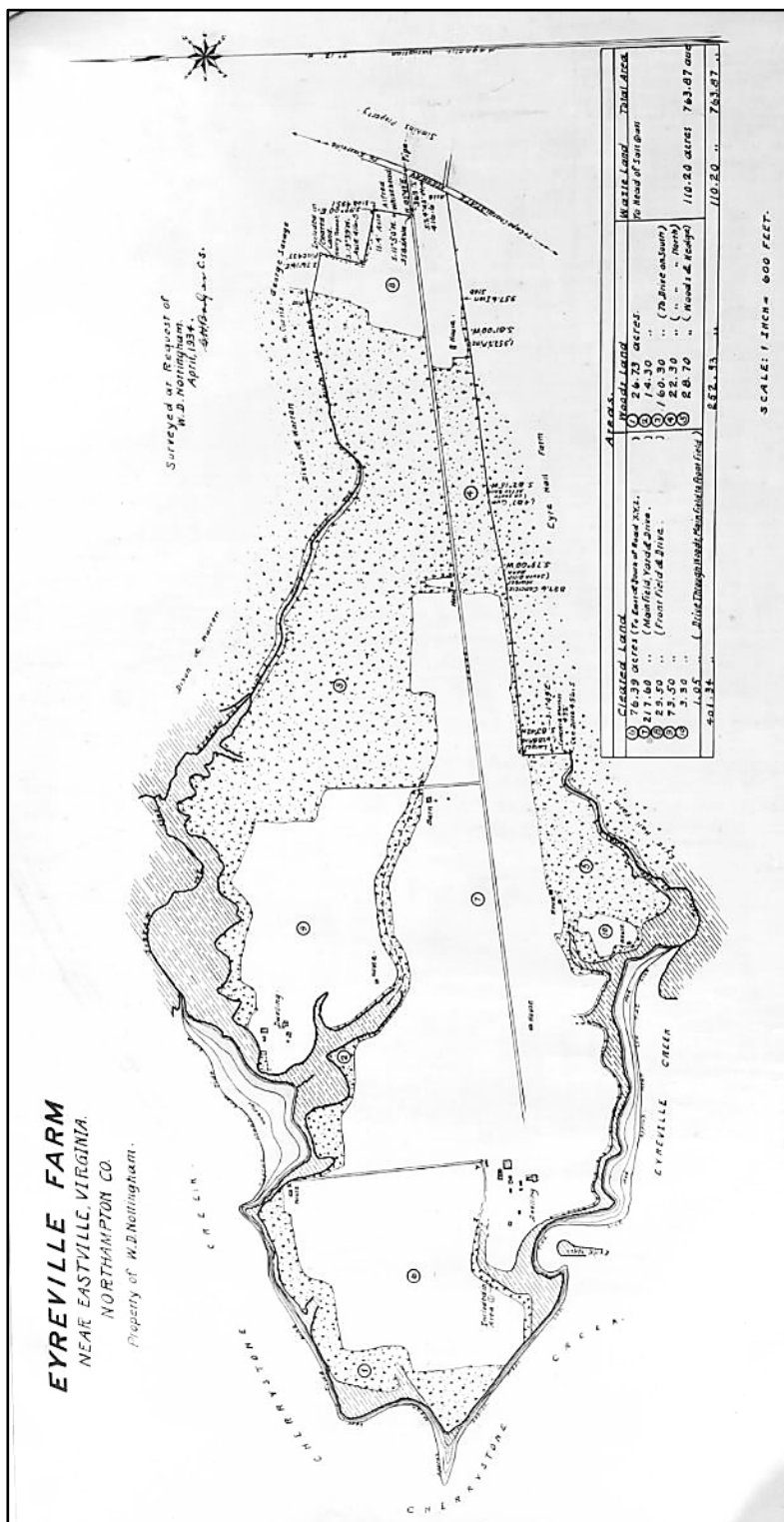
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16. Plat of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of W.D. Nottingham, 1934.
Northampton County Plat Book, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Eastville, VA.

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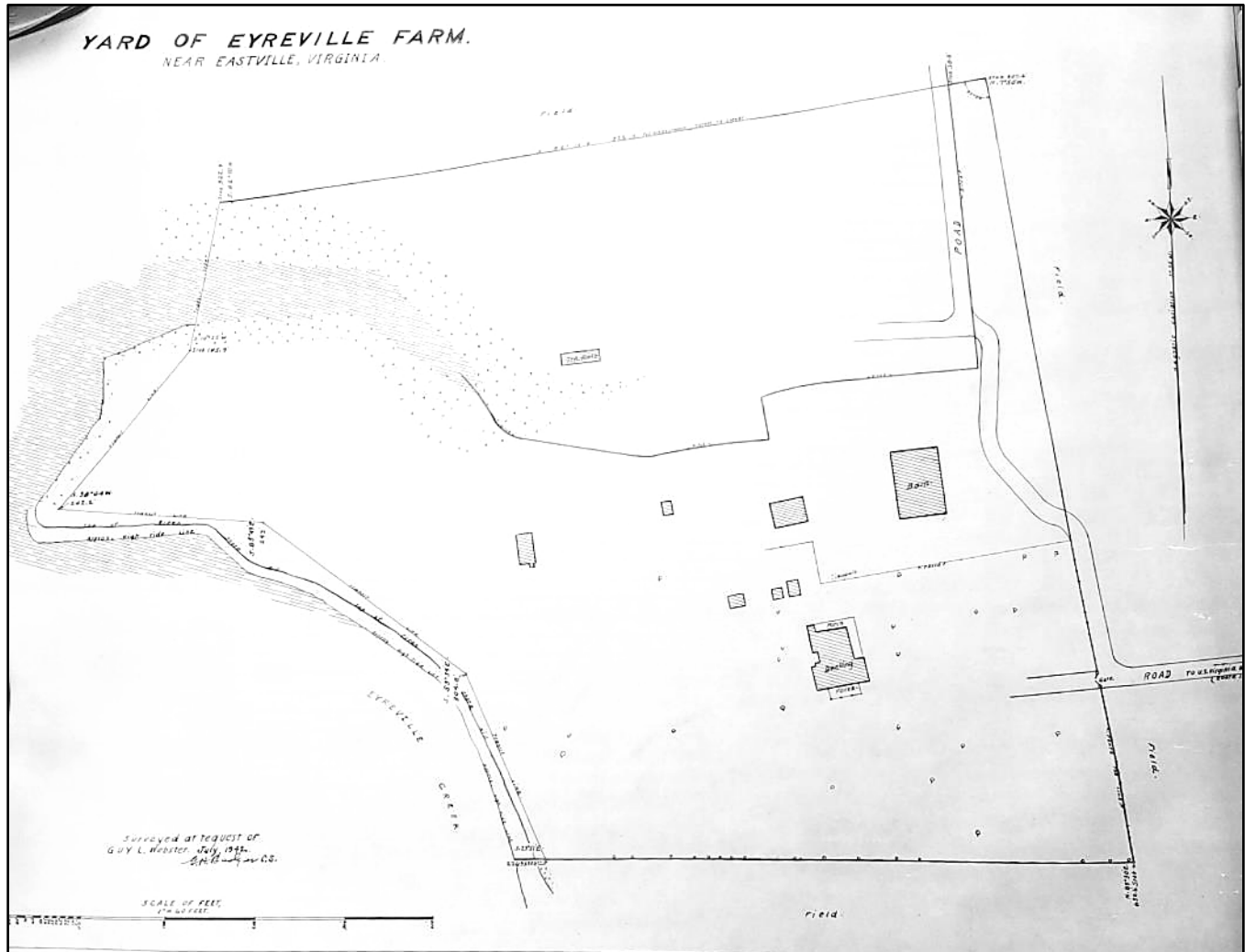
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17. Plat of the Yard of Eyreville Farm, Surveyed at the request of Guy L. Webster, 1942. Showing Main dwelling and surrounding outbuildings prior to Webster-era additions. Northampton County Plat Book, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Eastville,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