

A Walk Through Eastville

A Walk Through History

Eastville, Virginia
on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Site of the Oldest Continuous Court
Records in the United States
1632



Virginia 
is for Lovers

A Walk Through Eastville

A Walk Through History

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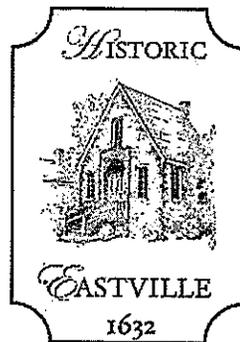
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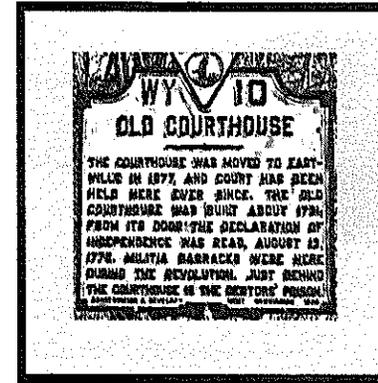
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In 2008, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources conducted an Intensive Level Survey of Eastville and its environs. As a result of that Survey, the Department identified and designated the Eastville Historic District. The District includes the communities of Eastville (formerly The Hornes, Peachburg Town, and Northampton Court-House), Eastville Station, James Crossroads (The Forks, now Bethel Church) and Stumptown.

"Established more than three hundred years ago with the construction of Northampton County's first permanent courthouse in 1690, Eastville has served as a residential, commercial, social and governmental center in the county.

Because of the extended development of Eastville over a period of several hundred years, the architecture within the historic district includes a significant collection of high-style and vernacular buildings."

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Courthouse Road

1.



**Cessford
1801**

The last Federal-style house built in Eastville. The original dwelling was completed in 1801, with two additions pre-1845. During the Civil War, General H. H. Lockwood of the Union Army occupied Cessford. The home was once part of the Cessford Plantation and a c.1840 Smokehouse and a Servant/Slave Quarters, both local vernacular style, remain on the property.

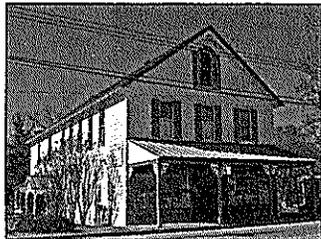
2.



Ailworth Hall c. 1900

The Queen Anne style home shows the influence of the Colonial Revival architecture style that was popular at the turn of the twentieth century.

3.



**James Brown
Dry Goods Store
c. 1880**

One of the only Italianate-style buildings in the District, it was built as a general merchandise store by William U. Nottingham. The building remains largely unaltered and is significant as an example of commercial architecture in Eastville.

A partial list of early 20th C. businesses in Eastville: legal/medical services, veterinary clinic, cook shop, two printers, millinery shop, drug store, grocery, bank, post office, dry goods store, livery stable, blacksmith shop, barber shop, three hotels, tavern, castor bean factory, buggy painter and a maker of walnut infant coffins. First Edition

Courthouse Road

4.



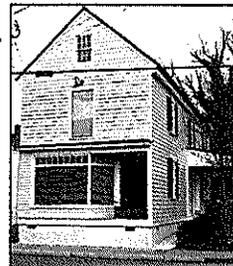
**Old Pride of Virginia Masonic Lodge #18
Grand Order of the Odd Fellows Lodge #2774
Roselle's Barber Shop—Miss Sue's Cookshop**

c. 1870

Originally built as a storehouse. Sometime after 1880 it was purchased for \$1,000, then lost.

In 1890 this vernacular style commercial building was purchased by an African-American Odd Fellows Lodge. It served as an important social center for the African Americans in Eastville until 1936.

5.



Eastville Mercantile —Eastville Drugstore

A traditional Chesapeake store—used over the years as a tavern, hardware store, dry cleaners, residence, dance hall and drug store, and is a testament to local tendencies of adaptive reuse. Its front steps were known as “buzzards roost”—public notices of deaths were posted on the front door. Much remains of its original material and it contains more evidence of a store's early form than almost any that survive in the south.

c. 1850

6.



Service Station c. 1950

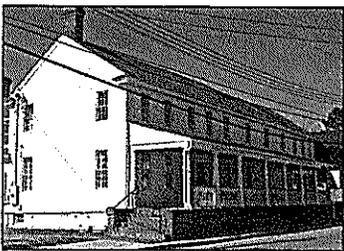
This building is one of the last of many service stations in Eastville. It is representative of mid-twentieth-century commercial architecture.

At the turn of the 20th century, “downtown Eastville” had professionals from both the White and Black communities who set up shop and offered goods and services to the people of Eastville and the surrounding communities.

Frances Bibbins Latimer, First Edition

Courthouse Green

7.



Eastville Inn c. 1780

Taylor House

The Inn, on the site of a tavern starting before 1724, has served as the primary social center of Eastville for nearly three centuries. An 1882 advertisement states that board at the Inn was \$1.50 per day and that hacks for transportation to steamers at Cherrystone and Hungar's wharves were available. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

8.



**Old Brick Store
c. 1825**

The Store is representative of early nineteenth century commercial architecture in Eastville. The Store sold clothing, boots and shoes. Merchandise was hoisted up and stored on the second floor. The change in use is not uncommon as government related offices were needed.

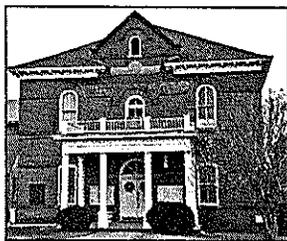
9.



Lawyer's Row c. 1820-1985

A group of four vernacular offices. Placement shows the importance of the courthouse and the convenience and social significance of being located within such proximity to the courthouse. [dates of construction, L to R: 1820, 1860, 1910, 1985]

10.



**Fifth Northampton
County Courthouse
1899**

This Courthouse was constructed by the B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Co. for \$8,600, plus materials from the old 1795 courthouse, which was subsequently demolished. B. F. Smith was both Architect and Builder. Building shows elements of Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles, popular at the turn of the twentieth century.

Courthouse Green

11.



Jail Alley

"...in the early 1900's three tradesmen from the Black community would set up shop every Saturday morning—Lit Bibbins, Jake Griffith and Archie Press sold beef, lamb and pork from stands with butcher blocks—a customer remembers: 'no ice, no covered containers, plenty of flies.'"
Frances Bibbins Latimer, First Edition

12.



**Old Clerk's Office c.1750
Debtor's Prison (rear) c.1814**

Both the Georgian-style Clerk's Office and the Vernacular Debtor's Prison are original to the sites. A brick wall connects the two buildings. The Clerk's Office wood paneled interior contains many cabinet doors. It is one of many structures over the centuries to safeguard the oldest continuous court records in the United States.

13.



**Old Courthouse
1731**

The first permanent courthouse in Eastville—where court was held until 1795. From the door of this Georgian-style building, the Declaration of Independence was read on August 13, 1776. Court records date from 1632, and include records of pre-Revolutionary activities—the Northampton Protest, 1652, and the Northampton Grievances, 1676. In 1913 county officials wanted to tear down the building. It was saved, moved and restored by the local APVA branch. (Assoc. for the Preservation of VA Antiquities)



To Stockley, c.1824—"one of the large plantations (formerly) on the outskirts of Eastville."



1



2



3

The Hornes



7



8



9



10

Courthouse Green



11

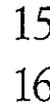


12

Jail Alley



14



15



16



17



20



22

Courthouse Road



4



5



6



28



27

Willow Oak Road



23



24



25



26



Town Park



18



19



21

Eastville Historic District

Eastville, Virginia

(map not to scale)

To Eastville Station



To Route 13



Courthouse Green
The Green contains architectural elements constructed between 1731 and 1899. It also includes a Confederate Monument dated 1913, the only public sculpture in Eastville.

Courthouse Road

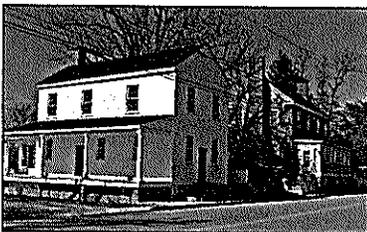
14.



Little Sugar Run c.1790

This modest, one-story vernacular dwelling is representative of the domestic architecture in Eastville in the late eighteenth century. The house features two end chimneys, one of which is free-standing.

15.



Sugar Run (foreground)

Masonic Hall c.1840

Maria Robbins House

c.1799

Sugar Run, is said to be named for the creek running under the street. Vernacular in style, it was originally constructed as a storehouse.

Maria Robbins House, Federal-style domestic architecture, has an 1850 stable and small family burial ground in the back garden.

17.



Coventon 1795

During the Civil War, Federal troops occupied the house. An ancestor of the present owner was held prisoner of war here by General Lockwood. Confederate troops came to the house to swear allegiance to the Union after the War. Property includes a mature boxwood garden.

18.



Rose Cottage 1886

The sprawling 2 1/2 story vernacular style frame cottage features a steeply-pitched cross-gable roof and wrap-around porch. The style represents late 19th Century domestic architecture in the District.

Courthouse Road

19

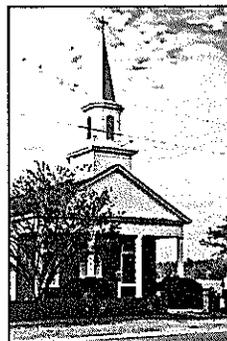


The Old Rectory 1909

Hungar's Parish Rectory

This high-style Colonial-Revival house of rock face concrete blocks was built as the parish rectory using a Sears mail-order block-building machine, at a cost of \$4,000. One of the few homes in the District associated with mail-order catalogs, and the only one of its kind in the town.

20.



Christ Episcopal Church 1828

This Federal/Adamesque structure was the first church erected in Eastville, at a cost of \$2,960. The communion service was given to the church by John Custis, father-in-law of Martha Custis Washington, and the alms basin was presented by Lt. Gov. Francis Nicholson, a founder of William and Mary. The cemetery contains about 300 graves, dating from 1843.

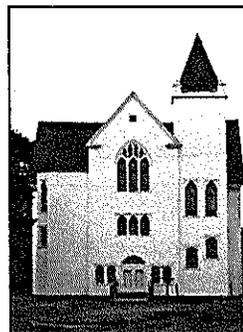
21.



Selma c. 1790

An interesting architectural mix of more than three styles from different periods with sections connected by a typical Eastern Shore colonnade. The surrounding land was historically associated with Selma, but has been subdivided. Two small cemeteries are south of the house.

22.

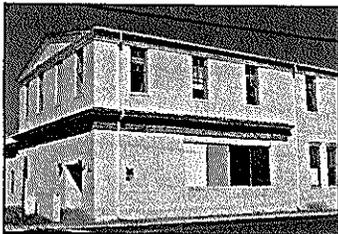


Bethel A. M. E. Church 1901

This Gothic Revival style building is the oldest A.M.E. church in the county, constructed to serve the needs of the African American community of James Crossroads/The Forks. An important visual, social and religious landmark, the church has 81 stained glass windows and is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Willow Oak Road

23.



The Eastville Bank
c. 1910

Originally constructed as a general store and bank with a Masonic Hall on the second floor. The building is representative of the early twentieth century commercial and social architecture of the District. This is one of only two buildings on the east side of the commercial area to survive a devastating fire in the late 1920's.

Some material included in this publication is derived from an oral history transcribed by Jean Mihalyka—a conversation with Mr. Shearer Trower in 1984. Mr. Trower was 90 years old at the time and stated that he'd never lived more than 3/4 mile from the Eastville Courthouse.

24.



Volney Hall
Richard Nottingham House
c. 1895

This is the only Second Empire-style dwelling in the Historic District. It features a concave mansard roof, floor to ceiling windows with shutters and an intact 3-bay porch. It is representative of the domestic architecture at the turn of the twentieth century.

25.



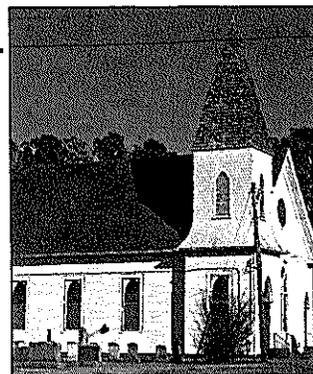
c. 1895

Victorian Houses, Willow Oak Road

Residences here date from the mid-19th to the early 20th century—set well back from the road, with broad front porches, they represent the comfortable family homes of the period.

Willow Oak Road

26.



Eastville Baptist Church
1878

The 2-story Gothic Revival-style church features fish-scale wood shingles, stained glass windows and a two-story steeple. The cemetery contains approximately 200 headstones dating from 1878.

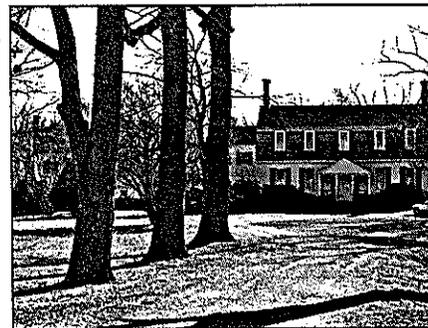
27.



Windrush Farm
c. 1850

This vernacular style home features a wing which was originally a detached kitchen—a chimney still serves a large cooking hearth. One of the few properties to retain an historic barn in the District.

28.



Park Hall
c. 1750

Park Hall was one of the largest plantations in the Eastville area. This house is the oldest standing residence in Eastville. The Colonial architecture features a mansard roof with shake shingles. The property includes an 1850 smokehouse and a small family cemetery dating from 1826. A traditional boxwood garden is located at the rear of the house.

Eastville Station

The Town of Eastville extends east across U.S. Route 13, along Willow Oak Road, toward **Eastville Station**, which was a stop on the Pennsylvania Railroad between Cape Charles and New York City. Several noteworthy homes line this route which are included in the Eastville Historic District.

∞

5481 Willow Oak: Selva Bungalow, 1913—This Craftsman-style home is the best example of the bungalow-style in the District. It was designed by a woman architect and was wired for electricity when built, twelve years before electricity arrived in Eastville.

∞

5516 Willow Oak: Ingleside, c.1810 —Built in the Federal-Adamesque style, this was the first Federal-style house constructed of brick in Eastville. The site includes a small cemetery and a vernacular-style outbuilding, c.1840, probably used as a kitchen..

∞

6038 Willow Oak: Vernacular style, c.1850—The style is representative of the domestic architecture constructed in Eastville in the mid-nineteenth century.

∞

6058 Willow Oak: Nottingham House, c.1886—This Queen Anne style house is a representative example of the domestic architecture constructed in Eastville in the late nineteenth century. The site includes a wood frame barn, c.1910.

Special Thanks to

Jean Mihalyka and Frances Bibbins Latimer

Their transcribed oral histories, published manuscripts, tireless research and personal knowledge of local history included in the First Edition have been carried forwarded and included extensively in this Second Edition of

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