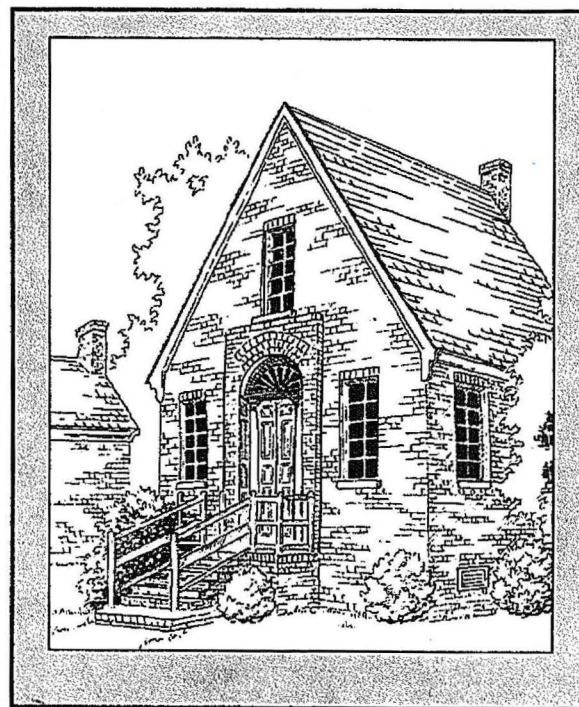




Eastville, Virginia
on Virginia's Eastern Shore



Virginia 
is for Lovers



A Walk Through Eastville
A Walk Through History

Site of the Oldest Continuous Court
Records in the United States

1632

A Walk Through Eastville

A Walk Through History

1st Edition: ©1994

Production: Frances Bibbins Latimer

Mary Miller

Published by Galbe Printing and Graphic Design

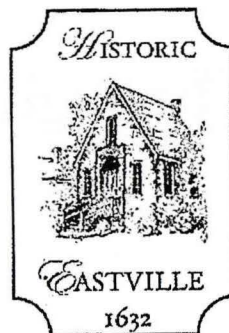
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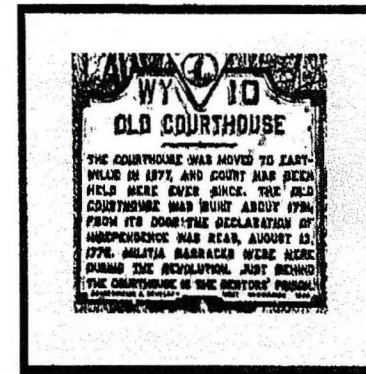
Published by the Town of Eastville



Town logo: Wendy Martin

Produced with Microsoft Publisher

Goudy Old Style typeface



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

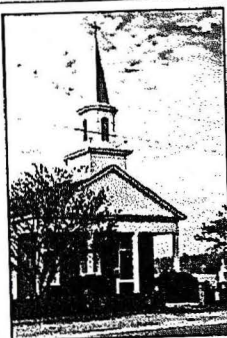
19.



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.

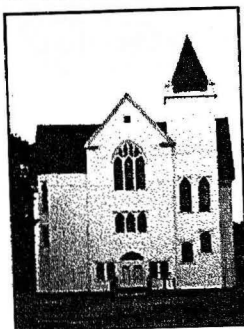
21.



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.

Courthouse Road

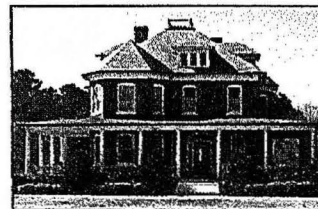
1.



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.

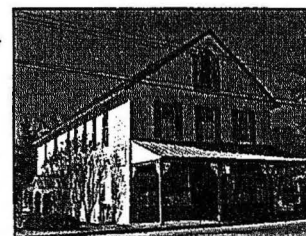
2.



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 Green

11.

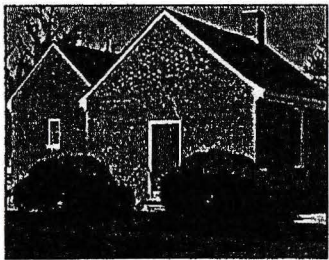


Jail Alley

"...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

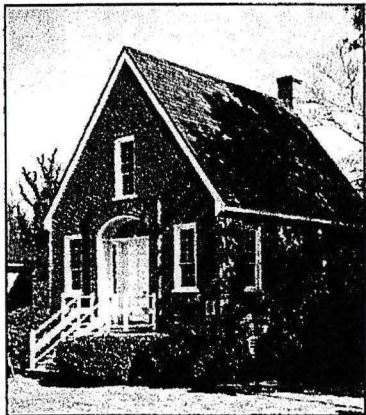
12.



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.

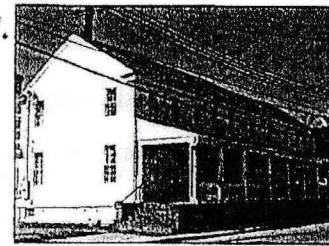


Old Courthouse
1731

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*)

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

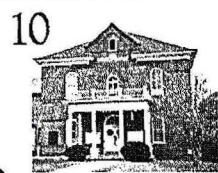
This Courthouse was constructed by the B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Co. for \$8,600, plus materials from the old 1795 courthouse, which was subsequently demolished. B. F. Smith was both Architect and Builder. Building shows elements of Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles, popular at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



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



The Hornes



Courthouse Green



Jail Alley



Courthouse Road



4

5

6



28



27

Willow Oak Road

To Route 13



23



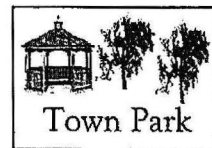
24



25



26



Town Park



18



19



21

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.

Eastville Historic District

Eastville, Virginia

(map not to scale)

To Eastville Station

