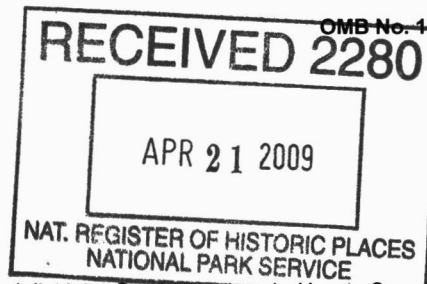


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

394



**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name B. Williams & Co. Store
other names/site number VDHR #057-0035

2. Location

street & number 1030 Williams Wharf Road not for publication N/A
city or town Mathews vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Mathews code 115 zip code 23109-0927

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 ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 4/17/09
Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper Elson H. Ball

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce Sub: Department Store
Government Post Office
Domestic Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Metal: Tin
walls Wood: Weatherboard
other Chimney: Brick; Porches: Concrete

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

- X 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.
X 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 a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance 1869/70 - 1935

Significant Dates 1869/1870, 1933, 1935

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Williams, Josiah (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 1

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The B. Williams & Co. Store is a two-story frame mercantile building built in 1869-70 that still occupies a strategic location beside the East River at Williams Wharf in Mathews County, Virginia. For more than three centuries this location served the surrounding community in a variety of uses including tobacco port, customs facility, store, post office, shipyard, steamboat dock, oyster shucking and canning house, and public landing. It also served as a destination of the James Adams floating theatre in the early twentieth century, the inspiration for the musical *Showboat*. The B. Williams & Co. Store functioned as a post office, commercial and residential building from its completion in 1870 until the end of steamboat traffic in Mobjack Bay in 1935. After that time the store was used exclusively as a residence until its recent purchase by the Muffelmans. The exterior appearance of the store has changed little since it was built, although there have been some alterations to windows and siding. The store is a much more formal example of a country store than commonly seen in the region. This may be due to the influence and ideas of Heron Murray of Baltimore, an in-law of the store owners, who supplied funds, materials and advice for the construction of the store. The prominence of Williams Wharf as a steamboat landing may have compelled the Williamses to build a store more befitting of its diverse and sizable clientele. The interior has been more extensively modified, but the frame, scale, and plan of the building is largely unchanged. The current owners are preserving the building and, with the help of the Mathews County Land Conservancy, are interested in restoring it to serve the community as a heritage center. A single non-contributing garage is located about 50 feet east of the store, a single set of non-contributing gateposts are located about 75 feet southeast, and a non-contributing low concrete wall surrounds much of the property. The store building represents a tangible link to Mathews' maritime and commercial history, and helps preserve aspects of that essential heritage for the benefit of the community. Williams Wharf is an important part of Mathews' maritime, transportation and cultural heritage, and the nomination of the B. Williams & Co. Store is an important cornerstone in the efforts to create an historic district to preserve and display these resources.

Detailed Exterior Description

The B. Williams & Co. Store is a simple two-story rectangular frame building with Classical Greek Revival elements constructed as a country store and dwelling. The store operated in the main first floor room, with a post office in one corner, and living space upstairs. It was built on brick piers with one interior chimney. The space between the piers has been filled with later brickwork to give the appearance of a continuous foundation. The building is capped by a low-pitched tin roof. In an 1870 letter, Heron Murray mentions shipping the tin for the roof down from Baltimore, and also offers advice for its proper installation.¹ The store faces south towards the steamboat landing, ensuring visibility to anyone disembarking from the steamships or other boats landing at the wharf. Its location adjacent to the original road (modern Williams Wharf Road, Route 614) also made it convenient to visitors or individuals conducting business at the wharf. The location of the store adjacent to the East River exposed it to damaging hurricanes in 1933 and 2003. The 1933 storm was followed by an abrupt end to the steamboat traffic in 1935, while the more recent hurricane damage necessitated some repairs/replacements to the building, including a number of the window sashes.² The exterior siding is modern particle board weatherboard. Remodeling of the store into a solely private residence likely occurred soon after the mid 1930s with additional alterations after the sale of the building in 1972. While these events involved several interior and exterior alterations, the framing, footprint and much of the fabric of the store is still intact.

The main south entrance contains a pair of original or very early double wood and glass doors with a five-pane transom above. Modern storm doors have been installed to protect these doors. The doors are fitted with an old lock containing an interesting folding key. The doorway is flanked on both sides by large windows lighting the main room of the store. The window frames and wood shutters appear to be original, verified by several late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century photographs, but the destructive force of Hurricane Isabel in 2003 necessitated the replacement of the original wooden nine-over-nine sashes with oversized six-over-six metal sashes. A modern porch spanning the south façade was added after the sale of the property in 1972. The porch has a flat roof with four metal columns resting on concrete plinths. The porch sits on a brick patio with two brick steps leading up to the front door. The brickwork, including paths to the kitchen addition and to the driveway, is relatively recent and likely predates

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 2

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the porch by a few years. The upper floor of the south façade boasts a similar exterior appearance to that of the first floor. A wooden door is centered along the façade with flanking windows of six-over-six sash. As below, the door, window frames and shutters appear to be early or original, while the sashes are modern replacements. Above the second story windows and door is an original Classical Greek Revival style cornice with dentilled molding and curved brackets. The cornice continues around all four sides of the building, lending a graceful elegance and unifying element to the store. Early photographs of the store show the south façade looking remarkably similar to its appearance today, minus the porch.

The west side of the store has one window on the first floor and three above. All of the upstairs windows are in their original location and have original or early wooden shutters. The window frames are also original, but with modern replacement sash. The first floor window was originally a doorway (as seen in one early photograph), but the change was made early in the twentieth century before the 1933 hurricane. A modern porch is attached to the north side of the store. Originally constructed as a screened-in porch in the 1950s, possibly on piers, it was converted to a sun porch with sliding glass doors and a continuous concrete-block foundation.³ The doorway between the north porch and the store building is on the east side of the porch and appears to be in its original location. This porch replaces a long frame addition built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century that stretched to the shore of the East River. This space was apparently used for storage, providing direct access to boats docked behind the store, and the kitchen was also located in this space. A long dock extended out from this warehouse addition which was fitted with a track and small car to move goods from the boats into the building.⁴ This addition was torn down during the second quarter of the twentieth century. Two windows are on the second floor of the north side in their original locations, with modern replacement sash.

The east side of the store is similar to the west in terms of fenestration and condition. A one room addition to the east side, likely built very soon after the main store building, is accessed through a doorway which matches that of the original doorway on the west side. It was converted to a kitchen in the 1960s, but its original function is unclear. It was used as a dining room during the early part of the twentieth century.⁵ It could have been the 'small retiring room for lady customers' that Heron Murray suggested they build.⁶ Two windows along the north side and one on the south side are original to the building, and contain early six-over-six wooden sash. A large double window on the east side was added after the sale of the property in 1972, replacing a smaller earlier window. The doorway along the south side is in the original location and the door appears to be a replacement. Prior to the 1933 hurricane, the chimney was located along the middle of the east side, likely venting a wood or coal-fired stove centered along the wall.⁷ During renovations after the storm the chimney was removed and a new one built in the southeast corner of the room, also intended for a wood- or coal-fired stove. This chimney remains but is currently sealed off and unused.

Detailed Interior Description

The interior arrangement of the store has changed little on the first floor. The main store room is a large space measuring 27 feet by 24 feet, with approximately 10 foot ceilings. The original random width pine flooring is intact and covered by modern pine plank flooring. The original beaded board wainscoting which covered the ceiling and portions of the wall was removed after 1935 when the main room was converted into living space, exposing the original joists and mortise and tenon framing surrounding the chimney. Portions of the original wall and ceiling boards are still intact within two closets beside the chimney in the back room on the first floor. According to Betty Murray Richardson, the store room had shelves lining both sides with drawers below for additional storage of goods.⁸ The post office was in the southwest corner. The chimney is original but the firebox and mantel were modernized by the previous owner. The original mantel still exists and was recently offered to the Muffelmans for use in restoring the building.

Behind the main room was one additional room which contained the staircase. This space is now partially divided into a hallway, closet space, and bathroom. The staircase leading upstairs is along the north wall of this room. It appears to have been extensively repaired or rebuilt, but Betty Richardson says that it is in the same location as the original.⁹ The addition on the east side functions as a kitchen and contains extensive wood cabinets and counters installed after 1972. The enclosed porch on the north is a simple carpeted room with sliding glass doors which provide views and access to the yard and East River.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 7, 8 Page 3

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The upstairs contains a hallway along the west side and four primary rooms. The back (north) room, now converted to a bathroom, was previously a servant's bedroom during the early twentieth century.¹⁰ The other three rooms are bedrooms, the largest one in the center containing a fireplace with a simple restrained wooden mantle. The southeast room contains the original exterior doorway and an early or original door visible in the early photographs. This door suggests that a porch was intended to be built, but never completed. The walls are covered with modern drywall/sheetrock, so it cannot be said for sure, but the upstairs room arrangement is likely original. The floor is covered with wall-to-wall carpeting throughout the upstairs, but a small section of original pine floor boards visible in a closet suggests that the original floors are still intact. It is possible that some of the mercantile activity occurred upstairs, but so far this is unclear. Due to the low pitch of the roof, there is limited attic space which can only be accessed through a small opening in the hallway ceiling. This space does not appear to have been significantly altered.

Secondary Resources

A modern frame garage is located about 50 feet directly east of the store. This building is one story with vinyl siding and three large doors along its west façade. This building is non-contributing. Brick columns flank the driveway to the south of the store. These appear to date to the mid-twentieth-century renovation and are non-contributing. A low concrete curb/wall also surrounds much of the property, defining the boundary lines. On the north side, this wall functions as a seawall protecting the shoreline from erosion, and stands less than 50 feet north of the store. The wall predates 1972, but is non-contributing.

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The B. Williams & Co. Store is an important landmark along the East River at historic Williams Wharf. Sitting in the same location as it has for 140 years, observing the changing transportation modes and population shifts of Mathews County, the B. Williams & Co. Store preserves the link between Mathews County's rich maritime traditions and the rapidly changing modern landscape. The Williams and Murray families owned, occupied and operated Williams Wharf from the late eighteenth through to the early twentieth century, marking over one hundred and fifty years at the center of the county's commercial and maritime enterprises. Several nineteenth-century buildings relating to the Williams family survive, but the B. Williams & Co. Store is the best preserved and most recognized building at Williams Wharf today. It is also an important survival of an early woman-owned and woman-operated enterprise. Both Bettie Williams, who ran the millinery shop, and Mary L. Williams, who operated the store for a time during the early twentieth century, left their marks as notable pioneers in the business community. Bettie Williams's hats were highly regarded, and attracted female customers from throughout the region. Building the store soon after the Civil War represented a significant investment in Mathews County infrastructure, and as a woman-owned business helped redefine the roles and importance of women in the rebuilding of the local economy after the tumultuous decade of the 1860s. A post office was operated within the store from 1879 through its demise, serving an important function in the social and economic life of area residents. As the B. Williams & Co. Store is restored and converted into a community heritage center, it will showcase the impacts that water, commerce and steamboats have had on the people and lifeways of Mathews County, and it will allow the Mathews County Land Conservancy to interpret the historic context of the wharf and the several historic structures remaining. B. Williams & Co. Store played a prominent role in the commercial and social history of Mathews County throughout its period of significance which began with the completion of the store in 1870 through to the demise of steamboat traffic in Mobjack Bay in 1935 and the closing of the store. The survival of this store through two damaging hurricanes in 1933 and 2003 is remarkable considering the loss of so many other buildings at Williams Wharf over the years. Little research has been completed on the commercial or social history of Mathews County, but B. Williams & Co. Store, and the larger enterprises of Williams Wharf, through restoration, archaeology, and documentary research hold great potential to add significant depth to our current knowledge of these areas. The uniqueness of the store's architecture and its direct association with multiple generations of the Williams family greatly enhance the significance of this property. B. Williams & Co. Store is nominated under Criteria A and C for its contribution to the long commercial history of Williams Wharf and the role that many members of the Williams family, particularly female, played in its operation, and also for its embodiment of a late nineteenth-century Classical Revival commercial building with few or no parallels within the surrounding area.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 4

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Located along the shore of the East River at historic Williams Wharf, the B. Williams & Co. Store sits on a 0.968 acre lot with long views up and down the river. A local landmark since its construction in 1869-70, it served as a general merchandise store, ships chandlery, specialty ladies hat store and post office during the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth. Owned by the Williams-Murray family since the late eighteenth century, this site and family served as a major focal point of much of the activity that took place at this busy port and crossroads for nearly 200 years. The Williams Wharf area was first settled and utilized by European settlers in the mid-seventeenth century. As tobacco was the primary crop and dispersed settlement the default system of development, colonial leaders encouraged ports and required inspection stations to regulate the quality of the crop and load it on ships bound for England. Williams Wharf became an early port for the shipment of tobacco and return of purchased goods from European merchants. After the Revolutionary War, when Kingston Parish separated from Gloucester County to become the new county of Mathews, Williams Wharf became the primary entrepot for goods and people moving to and from the county seat, located only two-and-a-half miles north.

Samuel Williams purchased 640 acres of lands surrounding what is now Williams Wharf from the Reverend John Dixon in 1779.¹¹ The property contained two colonial homes, a tide mill, store, warehouse and customs house. His third son, Thomas Williams, inherited the wharf and the large parcel of surrounding land in the early nineteenth century, passing it to his son William Williams. An official Customs Office remained at Williams Wharf until 1844, after which time it was only a port of delivery. Amongst the documents relating to the wharf and store are early nineteenth-century ledger books documenting all of the ships arriving at Williams Wharf. William Williams is best known for constructing Williams Wharf, and expanding the commercial operations that his father and grandfather began. It appears that the operation of the wharf and various businesses related to it was shared by many members of the Williams family, including William Williams' younger brother Benjamin, and daughter Sarah Elizabeth 'Bettie' Williams (4/4/1833 to 2/24/1907).¹²

The B. Williams & Co. Store was constructed between July 1869 and June 1870. Heron C. Murray (brother-in-law of 'Bettie' Williams), who funded much of the store, called it "Miss Bettie's new store" in an 1869 letter to William Williams, Bettie's father.¹³ The store was to be operated by Bettie and her uncle Benjamin Williams. Heron Murray was a successful Baltimore businessman, and his letters mention some of the details and materials used in the new store, including a suggested floor plan and instructions for properly completing the tin roof. The sophisticated architectural details of the cornice and style of the building may be a direct result of Heron Murray's influence, as he was well-versed in the buildings and commercial ventures in Baltimore. As a result the B. Williams & Co. store has a more urban and refined style than many of its contemporaries in the surrounding region. The architectural sophistication of B. Williams & Co. Store was befitting of its location at one of the primary steamboat ports in the region. This style of store is unusual here, as most commercial buildings built during this period were plain in style and generally gable-fronted. Of the 39 country stores surveyed in neighboring Gloucester County, there were none found with similar classical architectural elements as B. Williams & Co. Store.¹⁴ No comparable study has been completed for Mathews County, but based on a brief survey of extant stores and historic photographs, it appears that the architectural detailing of B. Williams & Co. Store is unique within the county and likely the surrounding region. Murray's influence on the tin roof is clear from the letters, and Betty Richardson also noted that stone steps from the Murray house in Baltimore were shipped down to use at the front door to the store. Surviving receipts from the operation of the store indicate a large payment to Josiah Williams, brother of William and Ben, for 105 days working on the store, plus additional days jobbing and painting. It is likely that Josiah was the primary builder of the store. The store looks remarkably similar now to its appearance during the early 20th century, based on several surviving photographs.

The new B. Williams & Co. Store was constructed near the Old Customs House, a small frame building that had stood on the property since the early nineteenth century. The Williams family had already operated stores in this area for some time, and the new store was likely intended to impress and improve upon the smaller collection of buildings that had served until this point. Heron Murray's letter of July 8, 1869, provides the best description of the activities and buildings present at the wharf at the commencement of construction:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 8, Endnotes Page 5

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We think the new store had better be built close up to Bettie's present store, so that a doorway and a step or two up- the old floor being higher than the new one, would connect them jam up together. It will look better, and keep some men, having only business with the grocery store, from passing the dry goods store, or mingling with lady customers, to have the new store on the north side of Bettie's present store; in other words, joining on the side between the present two stores. Then the grocery will be on the side towards the wharf. And Benjamin's present store will rent as a dwelling.¹⁵

Archaeology has the potential to uncover remains of these earlier stores and detail the changing layout of this busy commercial area. The 1869 store building reinforced the legacy of commercial enterprises operated by the Williams family at the wharf, and is a standing reminder of the historical continuity of Williams Wharf since the 17th century.

The store sold general merchandise and also served as a ships chandlery to supply goods to the regular steamboat traffic calling at the wharf. The store also included a post office, and Bettie Williams operated her lady's millinery and clothing shop in a portion of the building. Both Bettie Williams and her sister Columbia, are listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as purveyors of "General merchandise," along with their uncle Benjamin. The store also served as their family dwelling, as the same census lists William Williams and his wife Delila, his brothers John and Benjamin, and several of their daughters (including Bettie and Columbia) living in the same household.¹⁶ Hats and dresses were necessities in nineteenth-century life, as well as avenues of personal expression, and Bettie supplied both the utilitarian and the fashionable. Hers was the first and possibly only millinery shop on the lower Middle Peninsula during the nearly four decades that she operated.¹⁷ Both Ben and Bettie helped repay the loans from Heron Murray, and their signatures are on some of the surviving documents. Ben Williams left the store to another niece, Mary L. Williams, who operated it until the early 20th century. Her nephew, Milton Murray, operated the store for a time, but it ultimately went to his son, Benjamin Murray, who continued to run the store and live upstairs with his family until 1933. Murray's daughter, Betty Murray Richardson, was born in the upstairs portion of the store, and grew up in the building, and she recalls a number of its original details.¹⁸ Prior to 1964 the store portion was remodeled into a summer residence, and was featured on the 1964 Garden Week tour. In 1972, Benjamin Murray sold the property to Robert Bell, who sold it to the current owners, David and Pamela Muffelman in 2007 after remodeling portions of the building and building the garage. The preservation and restoration of B. Williams & Co. Store, based on numerous extant photos, documents, and architectural elements, will showcase the vital role that Williams Wharf and commerce have played in the development of Mathews County.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Heron C. Murray, Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, June 12, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.
- 2 Clara V. Forrest, "Plea to Preserve Old Custom House at Williams Wharf," *Mathews Journal*, April, 1935, no page number. Typescript copy on file, at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia.
- 3 Betty Murray Richardson, Interview, 2008. Recorded and transcribed by Pamela Muffelman, typescript on file at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia, no page number.
- 4 *ibid.*
- 5 *ibid.*
- 6 Heron C. Murray, Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, July 8, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.
- 7 Richardson, Interview, 2008, no page number.
- 8 Polly Cary Mason, editor, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia, Vol.s 1 & 2*, (Chesapeake Book Company: Berryville, Virginia, 1965 (reprint)), p. 37.
- 9 Richardson, Interview, 2008, no page number.
- 10 *ibid.*, no page number.
- 11 Mathews County Land Tax Records, 1779, Mathews County Clerk's Office.
- 12 Mary H. Murray Vawter, *Samule Williams of Northampton and "Gloucester" (Now Mathews) Counties, and Some of His Family*. Unpublished manuscript, typescript on file with the Mathews County Land Conservancy, Mathews, Virginia, 1947; Nineteenth-century ledger books, B. Williams & Co. Store, in possession of Pamela Muffelman, Mathews, Virginia.
- 13 Heron C. Murray, Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, July 8, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia, no page number.
- 14 Department of Historic Resources, *Country Stores and Rural Post Offices of Gloucester County*, RFP 97-98-5, 1998.

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.968

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing				
1	18	0380879	4140323	2	18	0380913	4140357	3	18	0380940	4140319	4	18	0380897	4140292

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thane H. Harpole, David A. Brown and Meredith A. H. Mahoney
 organization DATA Investigations, LLC date July 6, 2008
 street & number 1759 Tyndall Point Lane telephone 804-815-4467
 city or town Gloucester Point state VA zip code 23062-2334

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name David W. and Pamela M. Muffelman
 street & number 757 Myrtle Grove Lane telephone 804-693-7192
 city or town Mobjack state VA zip code 23056

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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 9 Page 6

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- 15 Murray, Letter of July 8, 1870, no page number.
- 16 U.S. Federal Census schedules, 1880.
- 17 Clara V. Forrest, "Plea....," no page number.
- 18 Richardson, Interview, 2008, no page number.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Primary and Archival Sources

Department of Historic Resources

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n.d. Land Owner, Personal Documents, including nineteenth-century ledger books. Mathews, Virginia.

Murray, Heron C.

1869 Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, June 12, 1869. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.

1870 Letter to Wm. Williams Esquire, July 8, 1870. Murray family papers, Mathews, Virginia.

Phillips, Gene

1964 Mathews County Garden Week Attractions Will Feature Many Unusual Furnishings. *Newport News Daily Press*. April 19, 1964.

Richardson, Betty Murray

2008 Interview. Recorded and transcribed by Pamela Muffelman. Typescript on file at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

Vawter, Mary H. Murray

1947 *Samuel Williams of Northampton and "Gloucester" (Now Mathews) Counties, and Some of His Family*. Unpublished Manuscript, typescript on file with the Mathews County Land Conservancy, Mathews, Virginia.

C.V.F.

1935 *Plea to Preserve Old Custom House at Williams Wharf*. Unidentified newspaper article. Typescript copy on file, at DATA Investigations LLC, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

Secondary Sources

Department of Historic Resources

1998 Country Stores and Rural Post Offices of Gloucester County, RFP 97-98-5.

Mathews County Historical Society, Incorporated

1983 *Mathews County Panorama*. Mathews Country Historical Society, Inc.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section 10 Page 7

=====

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The B. Williams & Co. Store boundaries are represented by Mathews County tax parcel number 29-219, as shown in the attached 1972 plat (Figure 4) and tax parcel map (Figure 7).

Boundary Justification: The property boundaries include the contributing historic structure and the non-contributing garage, gate posts and low curb/wall. The boundaries encompass the entire parcel owned by the current property owners, as indicated on a plat dated April 14th, 1972 (and depicted as Parcel 219 on section 29 of the Mathews County Tax Parcel map) showing that it is bounded to the North by the Ware River, the South by State Route 614, and by adjacent property owners on the east and west. The nominated acreage is entirely within the historic property related to the Williams family throughout the existence of the store.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Photos Page 8

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

B. WILLIAMS & CO. STORE

Location: Mathews County, Virginia

VDHR File Number: 057-0035

Photographer: Thane H. Harpole

Date of Photographs: May 14, 2008

Digital copies and black and white prints are stored at the VDHR Archives in Richmond, VA

SUBJECT: First floor closet interior with original paneling

VIEW: south

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore1.tif

PHOTO: 1 of 10

SUBJECT: Second floor fireplace

VIEW: north

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore2.tif

PHOTO: 2 of 10

SUBJECT: B. Williams & Co. Store, south and east façade

VIEW: northwest

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore3.tif

PHOTO: 3 of 10

SUBJECT: Garage, west and north façade

VIEW: southeast

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore4.tif

PHOTO: 4 of 10

SUBJECT: Detail, southeast corner cornice

VIEW: north

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore5.tif

PHOTO: 5 of 10

SUBJECT: B. Williams & Co. Store, south and east façade

VIEW: west

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore6.tif

PHOTO: 6 of 10

SUBJECT: Detail, south façade double door

VIEW: south

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore7.tif

PHOTO: 7 of 10

SUBJECT: Detail, first floor south façade east window

VIEW: north

NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore8.tif

PHOTO: 8 of 10

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Photos Page 9

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SUBJECT: B. Williams & Co. Store, south facade
VIEW: north
NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore9.tif
PHOTO: 9 of 10

SUBJECT: Interior, first floor south room
VIEW: south
NEG. NO.: VA_Mathews_BWilliamsCoStore10.tif
PHOTO: 10 of 10

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Additional Documentation Page 10

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Additional Material

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Figure 1. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of the south façade of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

Figure 2. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of Williams Wharf with B. Williams & Co. Store in the background.*

Figure 3. *Floor plans of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

Figure 4. *Site plan of B. Williams & Co. Store, using a plat of April 14th, 1972.*

Figure 5. *Late nineteenth-century portraits painted by Mary Murray Vauter of Benjamin Williams, Bettie Williams, Mary Murray Vauter, and Heron Murray Campbell.*

Figure 6. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of the west façade of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

Figure 7. *Mathews County Tax Parcel Map Section 29, showing nominated parcel number 219.*

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Additional Documentation Page 11

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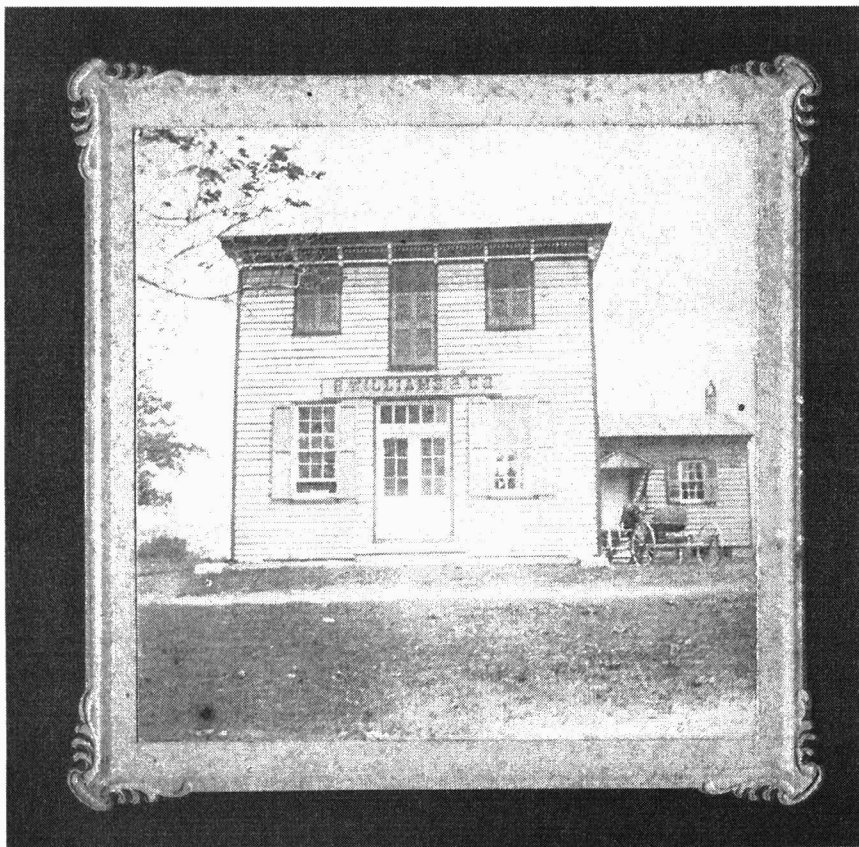


Figure 1. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of the south façade of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Additional Documentation Page 12

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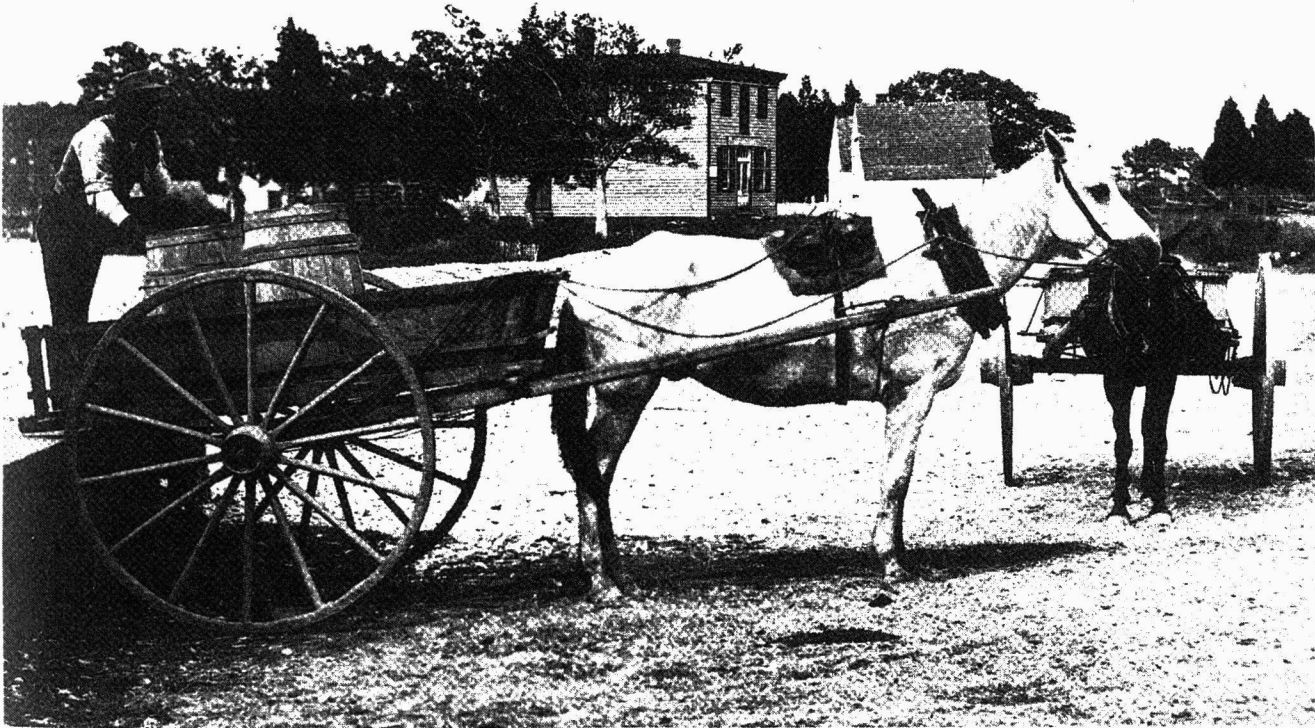


Figure 2. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of Williams Wharf with B. Williams & Co. Store in the background (center) (Mathews County Historical Society, Inc. 1983:71).*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia

Section Additional Documentation Page 14

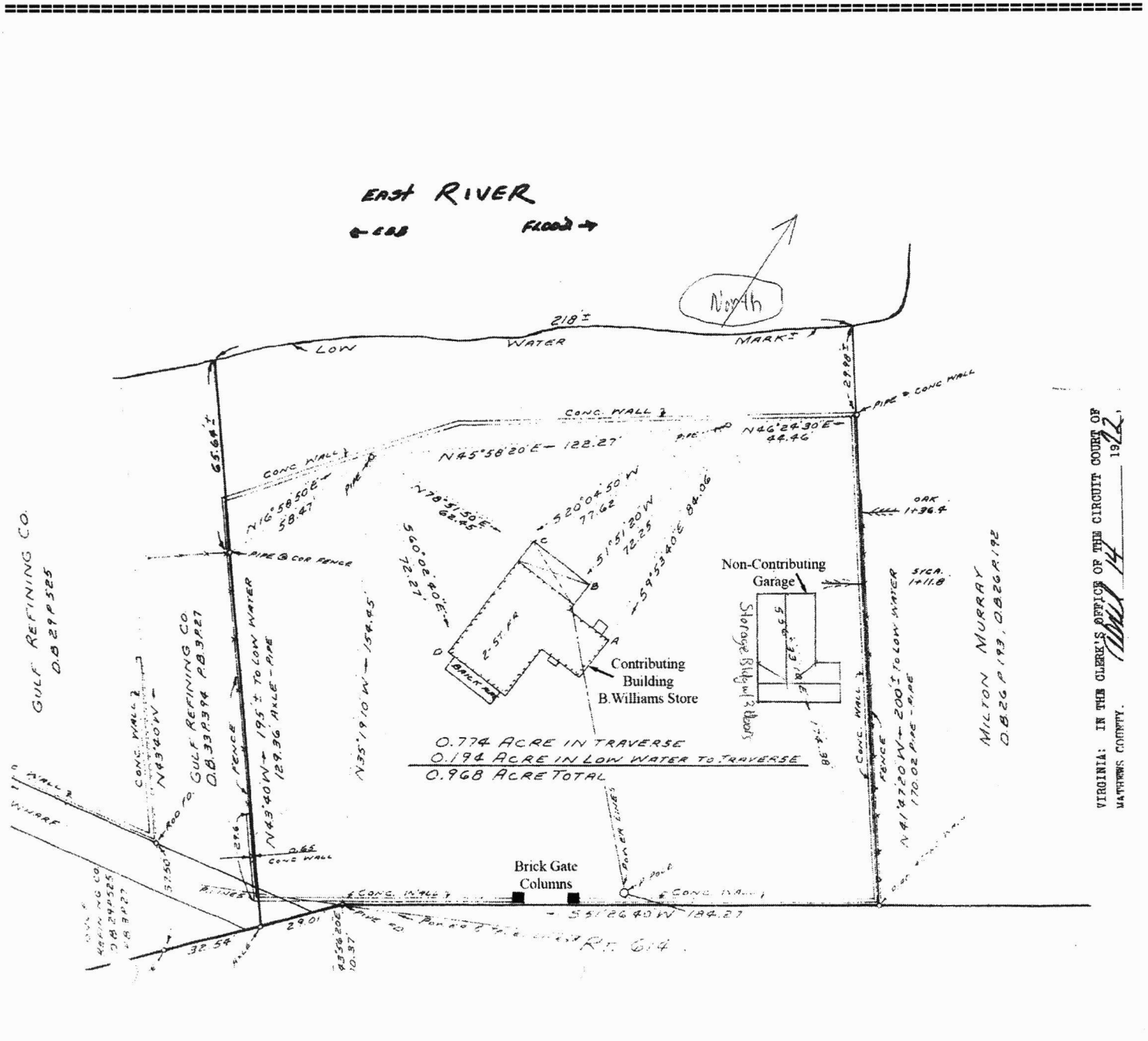


Figure 4. Site plan of B. Williams & Co. Store, using a plat of April 14th, 1972.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia

Section Additional Documentation Page 15

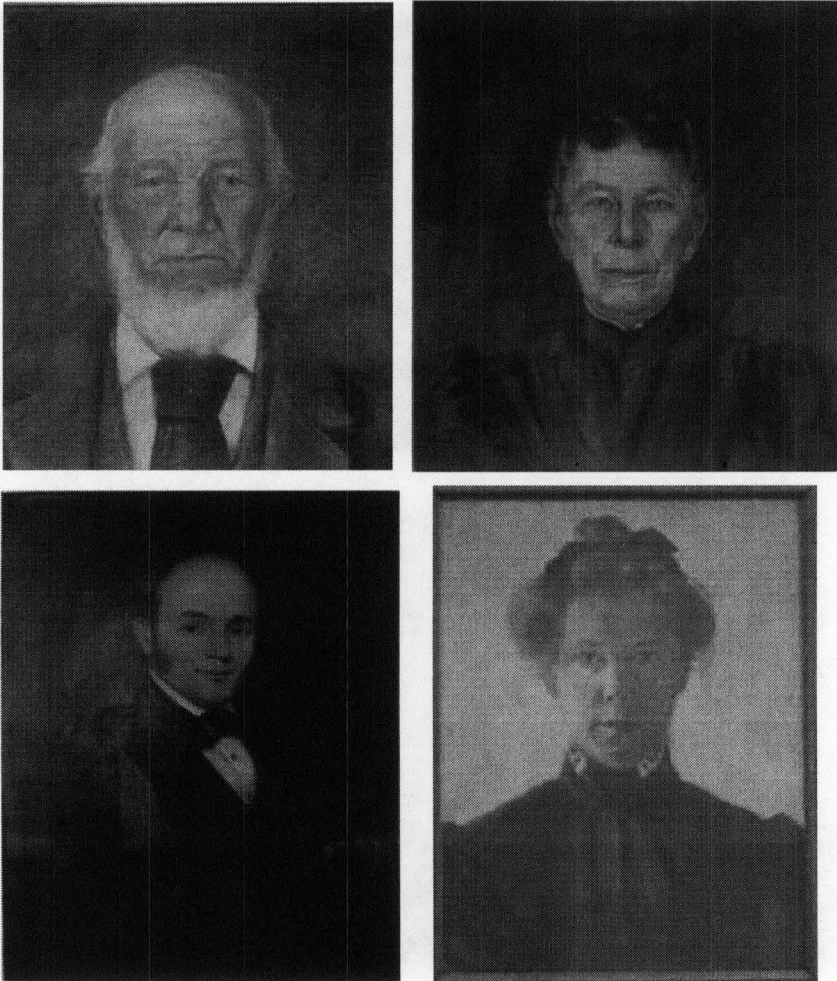


Figure 5. Late nineteenth-century portraits painted by Mary Murray Vawter of (clockwise from upper left) Benjamin Williams, Sarah Elizabeth 'Bettie' Williams, Mary Murray Vawter, and Heron Campbell Murray.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Additional Documentation Page 16

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Figure 6. *Late nineteenth-century photograph of the west façade of B. Williams & Co. Store.*

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**B. Williams & Co. Store
Mathews County, Virginia**

Section Additional Documentation Page 17

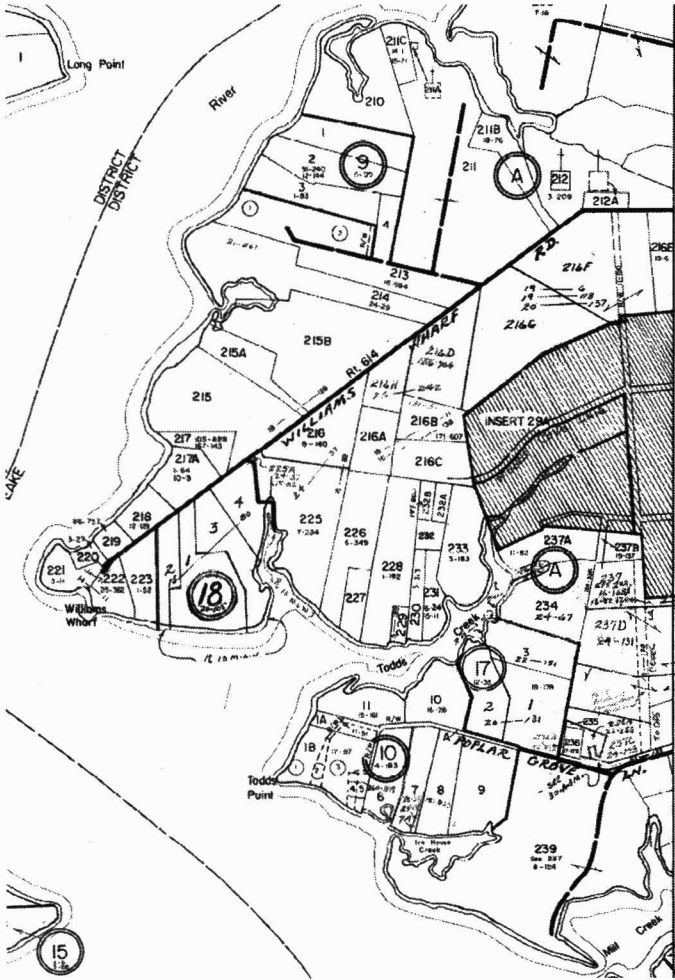


Figure 7. Mathews County Tax Parcel Map Section 29, showing nominated parcel number 219.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY B. Williams & Co. Store
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Mathews

DATE RECEIVED: 4/21/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/11/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/04/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000394

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6-3-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

1/10



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

2/10



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

3/10



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

4/10



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

5/10



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

6/10



B Williams + Co Store
Mathews Co, VA

7110



B Williams + Co Store
Mathews Co, VA

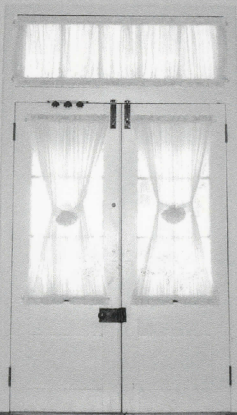
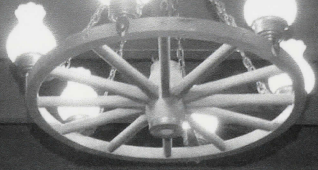
8/10



B Williams + Co Store

Mathews Co, VA

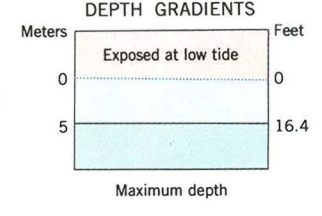
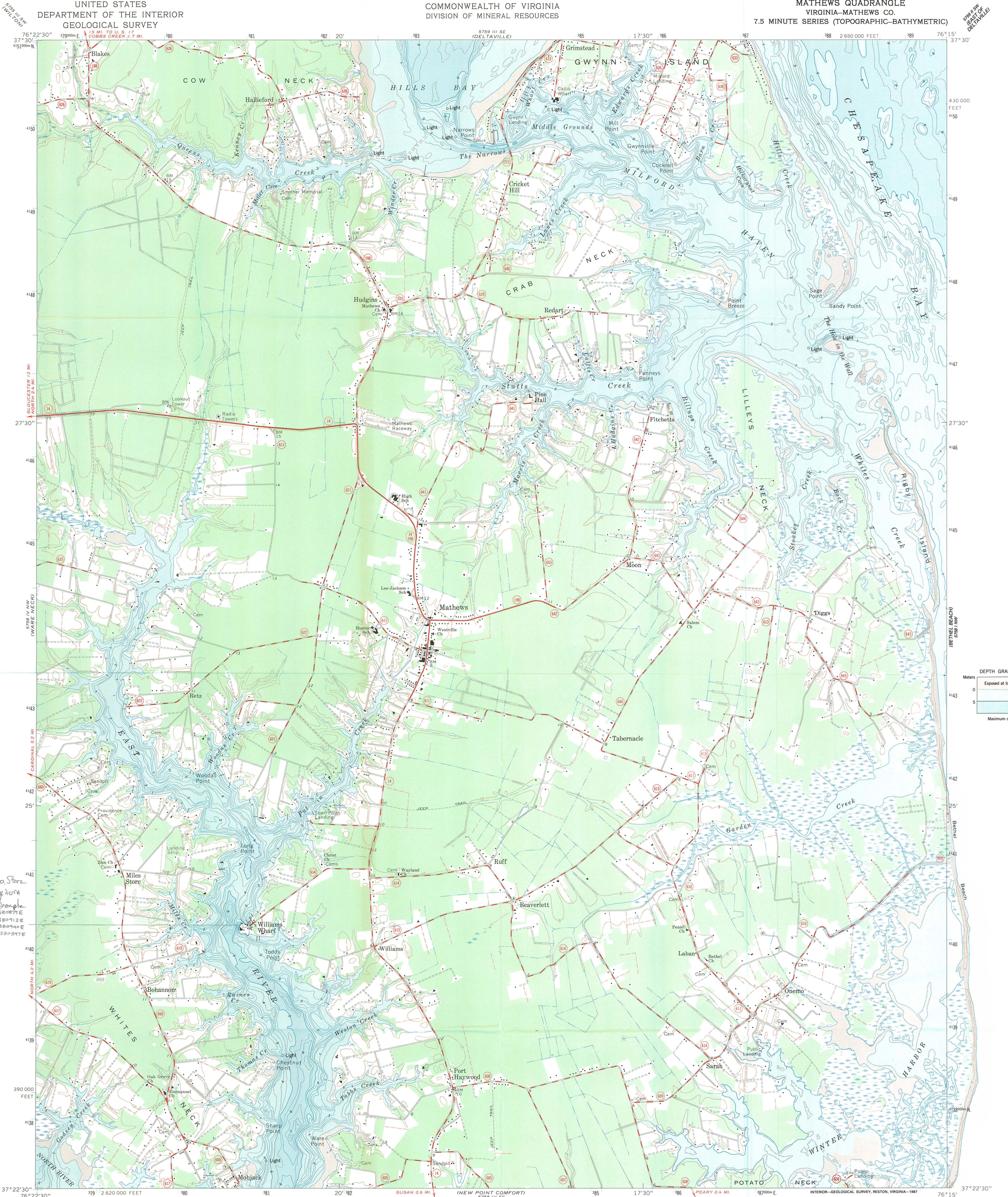
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B Williams + Co Store

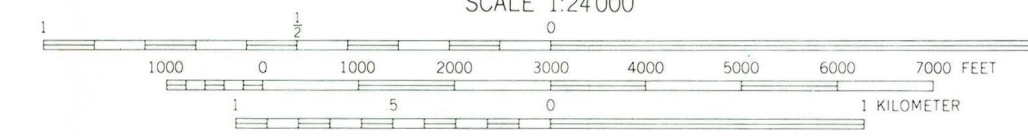
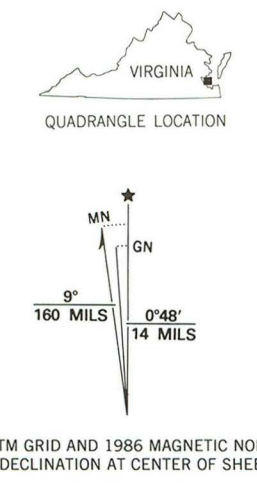
Mathews Co, VA

10110



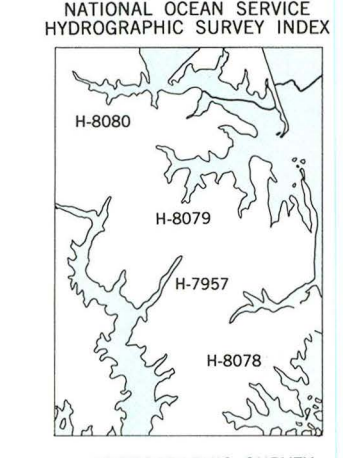
B.W. Hicks & Co. Store
Mathews, Virginia
057-0935
Mathews Automobile
1 4140325N 0380071E
2 4140357N 0380132E
3 4140314N 0380410E
4 4140272N 0380087E

Produced by the United States Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965. Map edited 1986
Supersedes U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map dated 1946
Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs
Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18 shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 9 meters south and 29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER WITH SUPPLEMENTARY 0.5 METER CONTOURS-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

BASE MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
BATHYMETRIC SURVEY DATA COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO) SPECIAL PUBLICATION 44 ACCURACY STANDARDS
AND/OR STANDARDS USED AT THE DATE OF THE SURVEY
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ○

MATHEWS, VA.
37076-D3-TF-024
1965
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1986
DMA 5758 IV NE-SERIES V834

SURVEY NUMBER	SURVEY DATE	SURVEY SCALE	SURVEY LINE SPACING (INCH, METERS)
H-7957	1965	1:10,000	05-08
H-8078	1963	1:10,000	01-07
H-8080	1963	1:10,000	02-06



READ: 12/15/08

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1318 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4261

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE
SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4601

December 12, 2008

DISTRICT OFFICES:

FREDERICKSBURG OFFICE
3504 PLANK ROAD, SUITE 203
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22407
(540) 548-1086

PENINSULA OFFICE
4904-B GEORGE WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
YORKTOWN, VA 23692
(757) 874-6687

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560
(804) 443-0668

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND OCEANS SUBCOMMITTEE
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS,
AND PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
SHIPBUILDING CAUCUS

WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV

Mr. Marc Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
Department Of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221-2470

Dear Director Wagner:

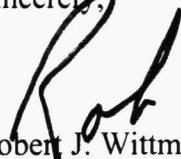
I am writing to offer my support for the Mathews County Land Conservancy's application of the B. Williams & Co. Store for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The B. Williams & Co. Store was built in 1869 and has been the focal point for commerce in this waterfront community for nearly 200 years. Built and operated by several generations and in excellent condition the store and Williams's family history tell an important story about the region.

I appreciate your consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 225-4261 with any questions you may have.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

RJW: br

2EAD 12/12/08 M/W



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

HARVEY B. MORGAN
POST OFFICE BOX 949
GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA 23061

December 12, 2008

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COMMERCE AND LABOR (CHAIRMAN)
APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

NINETY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

Mr. Marc Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

RE: Support for the Nomination of the B. Williams & Co. Store to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Wagner,

I write to support the nomination of the B. Williams & Co. Store to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This effort to recognize, preserve and promote a unique historic Tidewater waterfront property and business directly supports the Virginia General Assembly Chesapeake Bay initiatives to develop unique cultural, financial and ecological approaches to Chesapeake Bay and Virginia shoreline conservation.

The Mathews County Land Conservancy's projects have indeed addressed the issues of needed historic preservation, open space public access and sustainable conservation. The B. Williams & Co. Store and neighboring Williams Wharf are in line with our interests in Chesapeake Bay preservation and protecting historic waterfront while highlighting Mathews' proud maritime heritage. The nomination of the Store to the NRHP will help meet a number of goals and guidelines in the Mathews local Comprehensive Plan as well as many of the Virginia Congressional initiatives to benefit Mathews, Tidewater and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I've followed closely the Mathews County Land Conservancy and have observed its efforts and progress that have resulted in benefits to Mathews and the Commonwealth.

The B. Williams & Co. Store deserves such recognition in the National Registry of Historic Places, and I encourage your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,


Harvey B. Morgan

READ 12/16/08 MCW

SPOTTS ♦ FAIN

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

R. LEE STEPHENS JR.
SHAREHOLDER

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
OF SERVING VIRGINIA BUSINESSES
AND THEIR OWNERS
1988-2008

RICHMOND ♦ IRVINGTON

DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

(804) 697-2085

DIRECT FACSIMILE NUMBER

(804) 697-2185

EMAIL ADDRESS

LSTEPHENS@SPOTTSFAIN.COM

IRVINGTON

4507 IRVINGTON ROAD, SUITE 300

POST OFFICE BOX 70

IRVINGTON, VIRGINIA 22480-0070

(804) 438-9895

December 15, 2008

Mr. Marc Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Re: B. Williams & Co. Store – National Register of Historic Places
VDHR #057-0035

Dear Mr. Wagner:

I write to enthusiastically support the application of the Mathews County Land Conservancy for adding the B. William & Co. Store to the National Register of Historic Places. The importance of the commercial institutions that gave rise to the steamboat trade in eastern Virginia cannot be overstated. But for these stores and their merchants, the trade may never have developed that is so integral to the success of our United States.

The historic value of the B. Williams & Co. Store (the "Store") is closely followed by the benefits to be realized from preserving it from development. The Store is on the East River with a spectacular view of the water. If the footprint of the Store is maintained this will help preserve the East River and the Chesapeake Bay, of which East River is a tributary.

In 1988, the Virginia General Assembly passed the **Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act** (Chapter 21, Title 10.1, §§.10.1-2100 to 10.1-2116 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended) to protect the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board adopted regulations concerning the use and development of certain lands within the Tidewater region called Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area, which, if improperly developed, may result in substantial damage to the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The County of Mathews has designated the location of the Store as being within the Chesapeake Bay Preservation area.

In the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency acknowledged "that future development will be sustainable only if we protect our natural and rural resource land, limit impervious surfaces and concentrate new growth in existing population centers."

This year, the Federal Congress recognized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the "**Farm Bill**") emphasizes the importance of conservation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

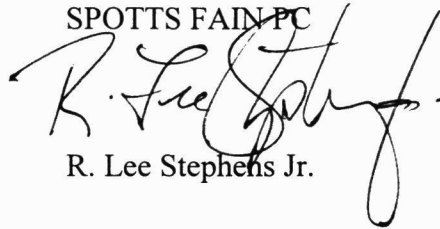
84666.doc

Marc Wagner
December 15, 2008
Page 2

The Mathews County Land Conservancy ("MCLC") is made up of an impressive group of individuals with an undeniable love for their county, its waters, and their heritage. It is my impression that MCLC will be a conscientious steward of its responsibilities to preserve the Store. Moreover, as indicated from MCLC's stewardship of Williams Wharf, they will educate the public on the importance of the Store in the past and for the future.

MCLC has recently retained the services of Spotts Fain PC to move forward strategic initiatives. Since our involvement, I have been impressed by the warm reception MCLC gets from others in the Mathews Community. This is an energetic organization in a caring community, all of which bode well for the future of B. Williams Store remaining a living part of Mathews County.

Very truly yours,
SPOTTS FAIN PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lee Stephens Jr.", written over the typed name below.

R. Lee Stephens Jr.

RLS/vls

cc: James Smith
Tim Ulsaker

READ 12/29/08
MW

12/16/08

Mr. Marc Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

RE: Support for the Nomination of the B. Williams & Co. Store to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Wagner,

My wife and I are the current owners of a house and property adjoining Williams Wharf on the East River in Mathews, Virginia. The house was formerly the B. Williams & Co. store and ship's chandlery, and the entire wharf served a focal center of maritime commerce from early colonial days through the sailing era into steamboat days.

The Mathews Land Conservancy (owner of Williams Wharf) has expressed an interest in purchasing the property from me. They tell me they are pursuing funds to do so. This letter is intended to express my willingness to sell to them, and also my enthusiasm for their intentions regarding its future use. Ultimately, I would hope it would serve as a museum for the many historic artifacts, photographs, and documents pertinent to the Wharf and store that have been accumulating. Such a museum and the water access it would offer the public would be major contributions to the community.

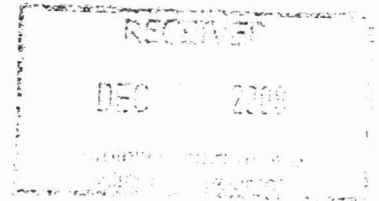
If I can be of any assistance, or can offer any further information please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm looking forward to cooperating with the Mathews Land Conservancy, and the prospect of such an appropriate use for this historic treasure.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Muffelman
Pamela M. Muffelman

David W. and Pamela M. Muffelman
757 Myrtle Grove Lane
Mobjack, Virginia 23056

READ 12/29/08
MCW



County of Mathews
Mathews County Board of Supervisors
Office of the County Administrator

December 18, 2008

Mr. Marc Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

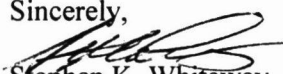
Dear Mr. Wagner:

This letter is in support of the nomination of the B. Williams & Co. Store to the National Register of Historic Places. This effort to recognize, preserve and promote a unique Tidewater waterfront property and business directly supports the Virginia General Assembly's Chesapeake Bay initiatives to develop unique cultural, financial and ecological approaches to Chesapeake Bay and Virginia shoreline conservation. In my opinion, the Mathews County Land Conservancy's projects have indeed addressed the issues of needed historic preservation, open space public access and sustainable conservation. The B. Williams & Co. store and neighboring Williams Wharf are in line with our interests in Chesapeake Bay preservation and protecting historic waterfront assets while highlighting Mathews' proud maritime heritage. The nomination of the store to the NRHP supports the goals of the Mathews County Comprehensive Plan as well as many of the Virginia Congressional initiatives to benefit Mathews, Tidewater and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I am familiar with the Mathews County Land Conservancy and have observed the organization's progress over the years. The efforts of the Land Conservancy have resulted in innumerable benefits to the citizens of Mathews County as well as the Commonwealth as a whole.

I ask that you give your full consideration and support to this nomination of the B. Williams & Co. store. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information to you.

Sincerely,


Stephen K. Whiteway
County Administrator



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

January 25, 2009

Dallan C. Wordekemper, CPM
Real Estate Specialist, Facilities – Headquarters
4301 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203-1861

RE: Bristersburg Historic District, Fauquier County; Sumerduck Historic District, Fauquier County; Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District, Fauquier and Prince William Counties; Danville Tobacco Warehouse and Residential Historic District, Boundary Increase, City of Danville; Ware Neck Store and Post Office, Gloucester County; B. Williams & Company Store, Mathews County

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced resources will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at our March 19, 2009 Board Meeting in Richmond.

There is reference of postal use in both the Ware Neck Store and Post Office and the B. Williams & Company Store nominations. There is also a current Post Office located at 5073 John Marshall Highway within the Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District.

We want to let you know about the nominations for your future planning purposes. We have notified all property owners by letter, and by newspaper legal notices. The processing of all nominations has followed the state regulations, which invites all owners and adjacent owners to a public information session. We provide comments from these meetings to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Enclosed is a copy of the notice that was distributed to all owners in each district by first class mail. Also included are maps that delineate the boundary of the districts.

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 862-6416
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-2807
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Roanoke Region Office
1030 Penmar Ave., SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Listing in the National Register provides the following benefits to federally owned historic properties:

-Consideration in the planning for federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment on projects affecting such properties.

-Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located, in accordance with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977.

For more information about Virginia's Register Program you can visit the web site:


<http://www.dhr.state.va.us/register/register.htm>

You may review the pending nominations on the agency web site:

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage/features/board_activities.htm

If you wish to comment on the historic district proposal, please send to Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, Director, State Historic Preservation Office. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. I can be reached at 804-367-2323/x-115 (email: Marc.Wagner@dhr.virginia.gov).

Sincerely yours,



Marc Christian Wagner
Director, Resource Information Division
State Historic Preservation Office
Enclosures

Feb. 24, 2009

Dear Mrs. Andrus,

Thank you for talking with me this morning regarding the grant issued by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation to B. Williams & Co. Store, Mallews County. I truly appreciated your interest and patience, and in pointing me in the right direction for additional research on how a private homeowner received a grant for \$345,000 from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

The nomination of this property to be added to the list of register will be held March 19 at 10 AM. My husband and I do plan to be there. S. Wilson, P.A.

@ B Williams Store

Gloucester County, VA

Mr. Bobby Bell could tell you of
the changes he made to this home

Since ^{he} purchased it approximately 40

years ago. His phone # is 804-725-5976

This is an old home, but certainly should not be
in the VA. Landmarks Register.

B. Williams Store

Gloucester County, VA

Grants awarded to preserve Williams Wharf landmark, Dragon Run

BY CHARLIE KOENIG

Two grants, amounting to over \$500,000, were awarded recently for land conservation projects in the Middle Peninsula, including \$345,000 for the purchase of the historic property that once served as the general store at Williams Wharf in Mathews.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation announced a total of \$4.3 million in grants going to 16 projects throughout the state. These grants will help add 8,390 acres toward Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's goal of preserving 400,000 acres by 2010.

The VLCF was established in 1999 by the governor and General Assembly. Funds from the foundation are used to establish permanent conservation easements and to purchase open spaces and parklands, lands of historic or cultural significance, farmlands and forests, and natural areas.

The grant to aid in the purchase of the B. Williams and Co. Store was awarded to the Mathews Land Conservancy, which will add this building and a .98-acre parcel to the rest of Williams Wharf Landing in hopes of creating an historic district for the entire five-acre property, which also includes the former steamboat dock, a community center and rowing facility.

Tim Ulsaker, vice president of the Mathews Land Conservancy, said that the building will be restored to its former appearance as a ship's chandlery and general merchandise store, and will be used as a museum to tell the story of the Wharf and its surrounding area.

"It was a really prime location" for a store, Ulsaker said, as ships would arrive at the dock from major metropolitan areas, bringing the latest in women's fashions as well as other hard-to-get items.

The building, he said, was built in the mid to late 1860s by Benjamin Williams and the store was run by Williams and his cousin, Betty. The two ran the business for a long time, before it was eventually converted into a residence.

Recently, a benefactor and supporter of MLC purchased the property from the last residents of the waterfront home to remove it from the uncertainties of the open waterfront property market and save it from any further alterations of its original condition.

The building hasn't changed much since it was a general store. The entrance opens out into a large main space that would have served as the



The former B. Williams and Co. Store at Williams Wharf will be preserved, thanks to a \$345,000 grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

has always been—a kitchen, Ulsaker said. The structure, he added, is in very good condition.

MLC has received a lot of fantastic artifacts over the years, Ulsaker said, including a large collection from the estate of the late Milton Murray II, a descendant of Benjamin Williams. "The B. Williams store is the perfect museum" to showcase these items, Ulsaker said.

The grant requires a 50 percent match, and Ulsaker said that the Owens Foundation will help the Conservancy come up with the rest of the money to secure the property, as well as other fundraising efforts. He said that the transfer of property may take as much as six months to be finalized.

He described the process of developing Williams Wharf Landing "a bit like watching a glacier move," adding that with this latest grant, the process has picked up momentum. "It's really been an exciting ride and it's really starting to come together right now," Ulsaker said.

In the roughly 15 years since its founding, the MLC has received approximately \$2 million in grants and donations to convert the property into a center for sailing and human-

powered vessels, including the successful Mathews High School crew.

Dragon Run grant

The other local grant will provide the Nature Conservancy with \$200,000 to purchase a 210-acre conservation easement along the Dragon Run.

The Dragon Run, 35 miles of swamp at the headwaters of the Piankankank River, has been called the most pristine water body in Virginia. It is a brackish-water, tidal and non-tidal stream which flows through Essex, King and Queen, Middlesex and Gloucester counties. The site supports three significant natural communities, including a globally rare tidal bald cypress forest/woodland and three rare species.

Specifics of the conservation easement were not available. "We are still negotiating the terms of the project in the Dragon and have neither a contract or grant agreement in place at this time," said Andrew D. Lacatell, director of the Chesapeake Rivers Program for Nature Conservancy. "The landowner has requested that we keep the transaction confidential as best we can."

B. Williams Store
Gloucester County,
VA.

- on the back of this house is an add-on sitting room by Bobby Bell.

- The columns & roof were added by the previous owner Bobby Bell.

- The home was originally a Box Structure.

- The small part of the house is a Kitchen and also was an add-on.

- I have a picture of this property when it was a ship's Chandlery; but to creatively call it

B. Williams & Co. Store is quite a sketch to make it of historic value.

D. Wilson, Ph.D.
24 Feb., 2009

Mr. Bell also added vinyl siding & shutters.

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\$139⁹⁵

Stihl BG 55 Handheld Blower
27.2 cc engine, 140 mph, 8.6 pounds
#105-901651

There is nothing left of this property when it was a Ship's Store

that

2008

The land does not perk; therefore, \$16,000 used to build "Johnny in the ground," does not allow any group of over 15 in # to use this outdoor privy.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2008

MATHEWS MIRROR



New pavilion

The Owens Foundation funded this new waterfront open-air pavilion and viewing tower at Williams Wharf built this summer, while Mathews Rotary Club donated money to help fund the new outdoor privy. The restroom facility was the Rotary's 100th anniversary project. The facilities are owned by the Mathews County Land Conservancy, which is developing rental information that will be available for use beginning in March. The conservancy held a reception for Owens Foundation and Rotary members at the wharf recently.

Oysters as 'history recorder'

B. Williams Store
Gloucester County, VA

Blessing fund tops



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
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www.dhr.virginia.gov

April 17, 2009

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Fairview, Amherst County; Ware Neck Store and Post Office, Gloucester County; B. Williams & Co. Store, Mathews County; Bluff Point Graded School #3, Northumberland County; Schoolfield School Complex, City of Danville; Pharsalia, Nelson County

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed nominations, referenced above, are being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nominations have been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the SHPO has recommended them for listing. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-367-2323 at extension 103.

Sincerely,

Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, PhD
Supervisory Historian, VDHR

Enclosures

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