

HISTORIC RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

York County and the surrounding region are rich in both historic archaeological and architectural resources, and preservation of these resources while maintaining appropriate opportunities for development is an ongoing challenge. For the benefit of residents, commercial interests, and developers, it is important to plan ahead for the identification and preservation of these resources, rather than having to respond in a reactive or haphazard manner after development is proposed. Given the County's rich history, it is not surprising that citizens feel preservation of historic sites and structures should be one of the County's top priorities. The Historic Resources element contains a summary of efforts made thus far in the preservation of the County's historic resources as well as recommendations for objectives and implementation strategies to further historic resource preservation goals.

County History

The following summary includes references from the Historic Overview chapter of the 2000 *Historic Resources Survey of York County, Virginia*, prepared in conjunction with a matching grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and in coordination with the York County Planning Division.

Long before the English first occupied the York County area, the land was home to the Chiskiack Indians, part of the Powhatan Confederacy of the larger Algonquin nation. These natives, whose subsistence was supported by agriculture supplemented by hunting, fishing, and foraging, lived in settlements located along the major streams and rivers of the Peninsula. It is estimated that over 13,000 Indians inhabited the coastal plain region of Virginia at the beginning of the 17th Century.



Portion of the 1612 map "Virginia"
Prepared by John Smith and William Hole; Published 1624
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

At the time of the first European contact in the mid-16th Century, the Chiskiack occupied a village of the same name along the banks of the York River. Spanish Jesuits attempted to establish a mission near the village in the middle 1550's, but conflict between the two groups resulted in the Spanish abandonment of the mission. When Captain John Smith and fellow English settlers arrived at Jamestown in 1607, the Chiskiack village numbered about 200 people. The location of the village (labeled "Kiskiack") is shown on John Smith's 1612 Map of Virginia.

The English settlers' desire to expand into Powhatan lands beyond Jamestown, coupled with their goal of converting native peoples to English religion and culture, created discord between the two peoples, which was followed by hostilities on both sides.

In March 1622, Powhatan Indians launched a series of attacks on English settlements in Virginia, which resulted in the loss of up to a third of the colony's English population. In retaliation, the English initiated their own war with the goal of annihilating and removing natives from lands claimed by the English. The Chiskiack people, who originally occupied the area around King's and Felgate's Creeks in York County,

were especially affected by the English reprisals. They subsequently abandoned their village and relocated north to the Middle Peninsula area.

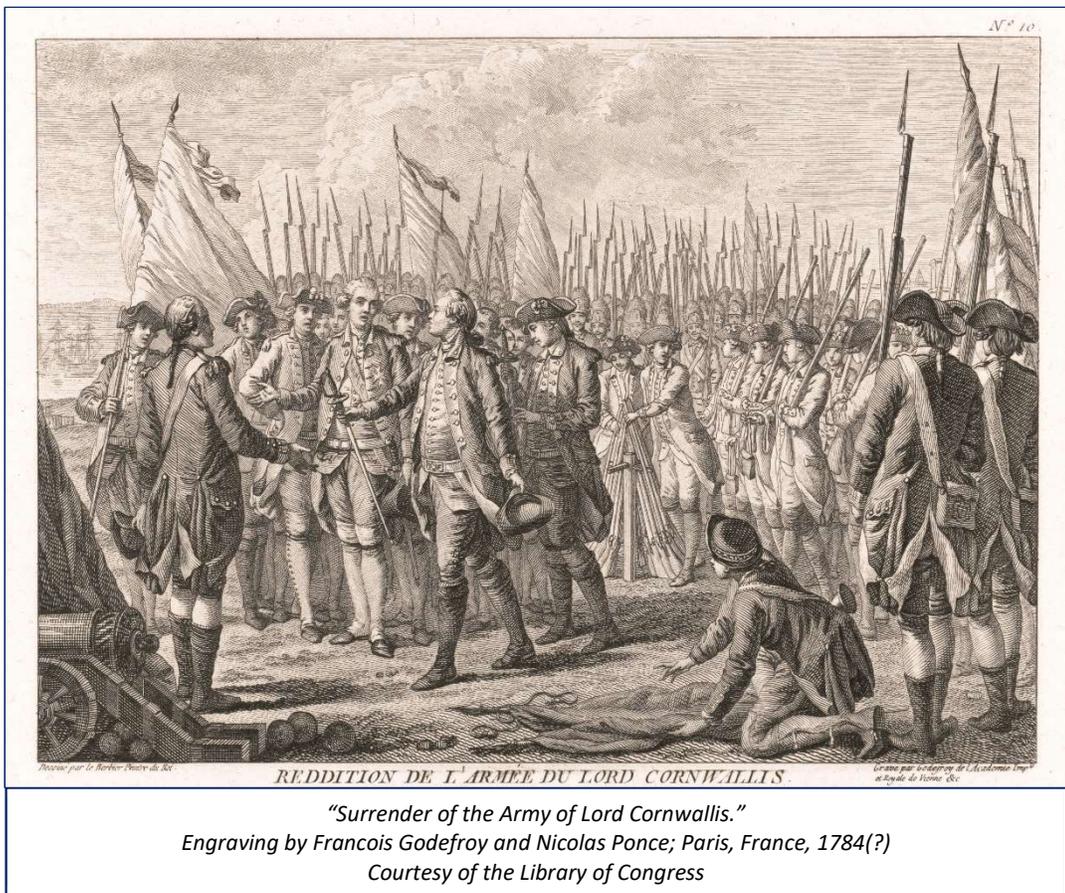
The first English settlements in York County, Chiskiack (near the site of the abandoned Powhatan village) and Fort York, were established in 1630 to provide a buffer between the existing English settlements on the James River and Powhatan Indian villages to the west. Development of these settlements included a palisade between the James and York Rivers, terminating at Chiskiack. In 1633, Fort York was designated as a port of entry for Virginia.

In 1634, the Virginia Assembly organized the Virginia colony into eight shires, or counties, one of which was Charles River Shire (named for King Charles I). In 1643, the name of Charles River Shire was changed to York County (named for Yorkshire, England and James, Duke of York and second son of King Charles I). By 1640, the majority of the land east of the palisade was held under English land patents, and by the 1650s, York County was fully integrated into a plantation system producing grains and other foodstuffs, lumber and firewood, various livestock, and tobacco. As the population grew along the York River and new settlements developed, the Counties of Gloucester (1651) and New Kent (1654) were divided out of York County lands, and a portion of the western part of the county was ceded to James City County.

Under the Virginia Port Act of 1691, Yorktown was established by the Virginia Assembly as an official shipping port to serve York County and the surrounding area. The town, initially platted with 85 lots, quickly became a thriving port and business center. Exports included tobacco and other agricultural products and imports from Europe and Asia included household goods, wines and liquors, furniture, firearms, spices, and books. The importation of slaves from Africa also contributed significantly to the region's economy and culture.

The institution of slavery developed along with the tobacco economy of the region, and some of York County's initial settlers brought Africans with them to work their plantations as early as the 1630s. Tobacco was an economically important crop in the Virginia tidewater area from its introduction as a major export commodity by John Rolfe in the early 1600s through the mid-18th century. Virginia's agrarian economy became dependent on slave labor to grow and harvest the valuable, but labor intensive, crop. Yorktown served as one of the colonies' principle slave ports until the Revolutionary War. Between 1619 and 1774, over 390 vessels brought captured Africans to Virginia, and it is estimated that between 1698 and 1771, over 31,000 of those Africans disembarked and were sold as slaves at the port of Yorktown.

The Revolutionary War brought great hardship to the County. Much of Yorktown was destroyed, and the country surrounding it was damaged and ransacked by both Colonial and British Army troops. Yorktown is most noted as the site of the 1781 siege of the British Army by allied American and French forces under General George Washington, the Comte de Grasse, and the Comte de Rochambeau. During the summer of 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis arrived in Yorktown following a battle campaign in the Carolinas and western Virginia. He was under orders from General Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in North America, to secure a deep-water port for the British fleet in the Chesapeake Bay. At the same time, American troops under General George Washington and French allied troops under Lieutenant General comte de Rochambeau were moving south toward Virginia from New York with the goal of capturing Cornwallis. As Washington and Rochambeau marched south, French Admiral comte de Grasse had sailed from the West Indies to the Chesapeake Bay, bringing reinforcements to Washington and Rochambeau. On September 5, 1781, at the Battle of the Capes, the French fleet successfully engaged the British fleet, led by Admiral Sir Thomas Graves, who had been sent to assist Cornwallis at Yorktown. Following the battle, de Grasse established a blockade across the bay, cutting off British Navy aid and preventing an escape by Cornwallis. The combined French and American forces laid siege to Yorktown, and Cornwallis formally surrendered during a ceremony held at the Augustine Moore House on October 19, 1781. The pivotal event was a contributing factor in the cessation of the War and subsequent peace negotiations.

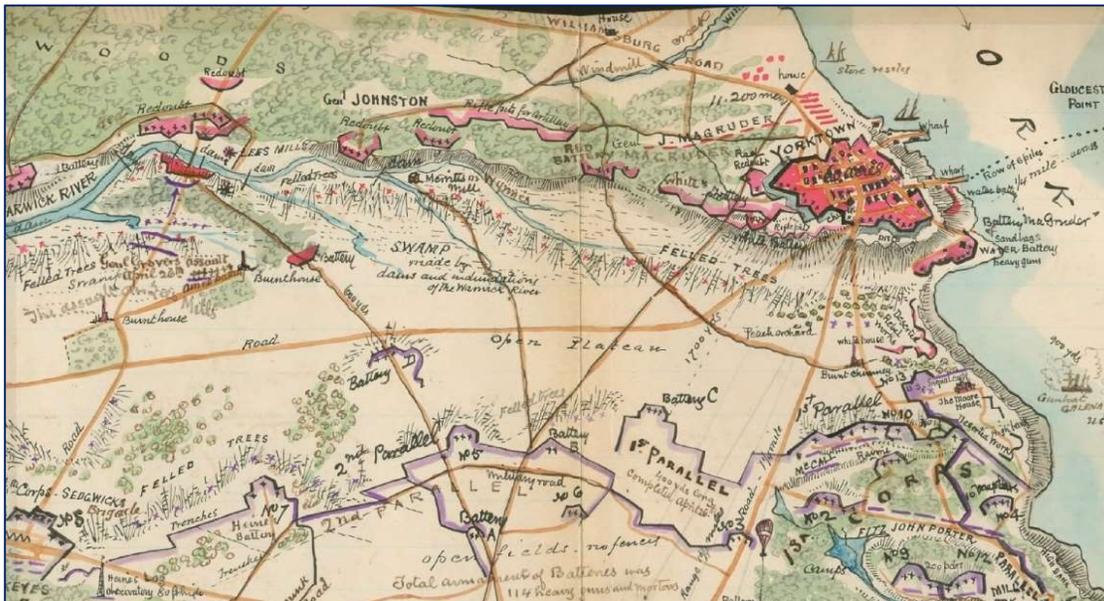


Following a slow recovery from the Revolutionary War, the County remained rural and agricultural in nature through the 19th Century. By the end of the 18th Century, the tobacco trade had fallen into decline due to drought, depletion of the soil from the nutrient-demanding crop, and the shift of shipping operations to more northerly ports such as Fredericksburg. Wheat and grain crops, shellfish, livestock, and forestry products replaced tobacco as the County's economic base.

The economy continued to be slow during the early part of the 19th Century, and little new industry was developed. Industrial census figures from this period indicate several gristmills on the larger streams, such as Burwell's Mill (aka Whitaker's Mill) at King's Creek Plantation, and numerous looms for the manufacture of linen and wool textiles. According to the 1850 Census, the County population comprised 1,825 whites, 2,181 African-American slaves and 454 free African-Americans. Almost half of the households in the county listed farming as their principal occupation. Oystering and fishing ranked second to farming as an occupation. Other occupations included storekeepers, retail merchants, carpenters, bricklayers, lawyers, physicians, and clergymen.

York County was once again the focus of military activity during the Peninsula Campaign of the Civil War. Following the June 1861 Battle of Big Bethel near the Hampton/York County border, Confederate troops under the command of Major General John Magruder established a base of operations in Yorktown. Thousands of Confederate soldiers and slaves had completed a line of fourteen redoubts across the peninsula west of Yorktown and constructed additional fortifications around the village by spring 1862. The preserved remains of two of these redoubts can be seen today in the County's New Quarter Park. Meanwhile, Union Major General George McClellan, commanding the Army of the Potomac, had been moving troops up the Peninsula toward Yorktown from Fort Monroe in Hampton. Union forces established defensive positions south and east of Yorktown, and McClellan directed the construction of several Union

siege gun batteries near Yorktown. The Clark House, which still exists today in the Marlbank area of York County, was used as McClellan's headquarters, and a substantial Union encampment was established in the area. Before major combat activity was initiated between the two armies in Yorktown, the Confederate army withdrew toward Williamsburg on May 4, 1862. Pursuing Union troops engaged the Confederate army at the Battle of Williamsburg on the following day, which resulted in a further Confederate withdrawal to Richmond. Yorktown remained under Union occupation as a supply depot and military garrison until Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the town abandoned in 1864.



Detail of "Siege of Yorktown" from the Army Diary of the War of the Rebellion, 1861 - 5
 By Robert Knox Snedon
 Courtesy of the Library of Virginia

By 1865, numerous farms had been abandoned, and grain and livestock production fell dramatically. With the emancipation of African-American slaves, the plantation system of agriculture ceased to exist. The County, like much of the country, fell into an economic depression, from which it was slow to recover. Many of the large plantations were divided into smaller parcels and sold, leased, or worked on shares. By the last quarter of the century, the number of farms in the County increased, while their average size decreased. The 1870 Census indicates that more than two-thirds of the farms in the County contained less than 20 acres. This Census also indicates that only seven manufacturing businesses existed in the County, including a sawmill and two flour mills, and only 36 people were employed in manufacturing.

The trend of decreasing farm size continued into the early 20th Century. A total of 960 farms were reported in the 1910 Census, more than 80% of which were owner-occupied. Grain crops continued to be the primary agriculture product, with livestock, poultry, hay, sorghum, potatoes, and peanuts also being produced. This Census reported no manufacturing businesses in the County.

A noticeable change in the development of the County was the establishment of several village centers. The villages were typically located at a crossroads containing a post office, school or church, store, and a few dwellings. The remnants of these communities exist today in Dare, Tabb, Seaford, Yorkville, Hornsbyville, Harris Grove, Dandy, Grove, Lackey, and Skimino. Of additional note are the now vanished villages of Charles Corner, Magruder, Bigler's Mill, and Uniontown.

Charles Corner once existed on land now developed as the U.S. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. Following the end of the Civil War, several free African-American villages were established on the

Peninsula, including Charles Corner, located at the crossroads of the Williamsburg-Yorktown Road and Cheesecake Road near King's and Felgate's Creeks. Located on lands once occupied by large plantations, the self-reliant village was established by freedmen who settled on the land during the Union occupation of the County during the Civil War. After the War, many of these freedmen were able to purchase property from insolvent plantation owners no longer able to maintain their lands without slave labor. In 1918, the federal government acquired almost 11,000 acres of land west of Yorktown by eminent domain for the establishment of a new Naval Mine Depot (now the Weapons Station). The acquisition included the village of Charles Corner, where residents were forced to abandon their community and relocate elsewhere in the County.

The village of Uniontown (also known as Slabtown) was once located just south of the Yorktown village on land that is now part of the U.S. National Park Service Colonial National Historical Park. The village was first settled as an African-American "contraband" camp in 1862 at the time of the Union Army occupation of Yorktown. Refugees from slavery that escaped to Union strongholds, such as Yorktown, were deemed "contraband of war" and were granted their freedom by Congressional action. The Union Army established three camps in the area, one being Uniontown, to provide refugees with housing and improved living conditions. Following the end of the War, as had happened at Charles Corner, many of the Uniontown freedmen were able to purchase land they had settled upon. By the end of the 19th century, the community's population was almost as large as that of neighboring Yorktown. In 1930, in response to public concern about the potential loss of historically significant Yorktown Battlefield land, the National Park Service Colonial National Monument (later to become Colonial National Historical Park) was established on lands adjacent to Uniontown. Long-range plans for the park included acquisition of lands covering the full expanse of the 18th century battlefield area, which included Uniontown. Between the 1950s and the '70s, Congressional funding was allocated for that purpose, and by the late 1970s, the last of the Uniontown properties was purchased and the property owner relocated off of the battlefield land. All the buildings were razed, including Shiloh Baptist Church, located at the intersection of Goosley Road and Cook Road. The congregation moved to its current location about a half a mile away on Goosley Road, just west of Route 17.

During the first half of the 20th century, the establishment of industrial and military facilities greatly changed development patterns in the County. Just prior to World War I, the DuPont Corporation purchased 4,000 acres of farmland on the York River for a dynamite plant and constructed the town of Penniman to house its workers. Before the plant went into production, the federal government acquired the facility (now developed as Cheatham Annex, a part of the Naval Weapons Station), and developed a shell-loading plant on the site. At the end of the war, the plant was closed and the town of Penniman disappeared. Today, the Penniman Road name is all that remains of the original residential development. The military installation continues to be a Navy supply depot and is also a technical training site for cargo handling and movement. Residential amenities for service personnel include a large recreation center, over 100 cabin rentals, a campground, and golf course.



*Detail of "Panorama showing village, powerhouse, shell loading lines and police barracks, Penniman, Va."
Photo by John A. Dick; June 6, 1918*

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Development of the previously mentioned Naval Weapons Station added to the military presence in the County during the World War I era. The Atlantic Fleet was based in Norfolk during the War, and a regional fuel oil depot serving the Navy was located on the present-day site of U.S. Coast Guard Training Center

Yorktown. In 1942, the Navy established a Mine Warfare School on part of the fuel depot land. The U.S. Coast Guard took possession of the school in 1959, and the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center was commissioned that same year. Just prior to World War II, the federal government established Camp Peary on the York River between Queen Creek and Skimino Creek as a Navy training facility for construction battalions. The facility was also used as a German prisoner-of-war camp during WWII, and many prisoners worked on farms in the area during their internment. The facility continues today as an armed forces experimental training facility. Areas of the County not associated with military activities remained rural in nature during the first half of the 20th century, and farming and shellfish continued to be the main basis of the county's economy. Cash crops included corn, soybeans, truck crops, oysters, crabs, and scallops.

Following World War II, the County and the Peninsula experienced rapid suburban development. Military installations in York County established during WWI and WWII (Camp Peary, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown), as well as Fort Eustis Army Base in Newport News, Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, and Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, became permanent installations, and personnel stationed at the facilities added to the area population. In addition to housing military personnel, York County also became a bedroom community for non-military residents working elsewhere in the region. Suburban development was initially concentrated in the southern and eastern parts of the County, but has since spread throughout the County. Today, the economy of the County is primarily oriented toward retail, service, and tourism industries; however, the U.S. Department of Defense remains the largest employer in the County.

EXISTING RESOURCES

Historical resources are classified as “above ground” or architectural, and “below ground” or archaeological. Architectural resources can include dwellings, non-residential buildings, outbuildings, wharves, monuments, bridges, or earthworks. Archaeological resources can include remains of hearths, weapons, tools, trash pits, pottery, utensils, human or animal remains, wells, building foundations, or fence lines. York County has a wealth of both types of resources.

One of the first comprehensive reports identifying historical resources and giving recommendations for their preservation for York County as well as Williamsburg and James City County was the 1986 report, *Toward a Resource Protection Process*, prepared by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF) Department of Archaeological Research with grant monies from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). This report was updated in 1990 and is one of the current reference documents for the County Zoning Ordinance Historic Resources Management overlay district. Information and research sources for the majority of sites identified in the report come primarily from archives and reports held by the VDHR. Updates to the VDHR archives are made continually, and many more sites have been identified and cataloged since publication of the 1990 report, which listed a total of 71 architectural sites and 536 archaeological sites in the County.

In June 2000, the *Historic Resources Survey of York County, Virginia* report was completed by the County utilizing matching grant funds from the VDHR. The report consists of an architectural survey of the standing historic buildings (over fifty years of age) in the County, exclusive of land owned by the federal government. The report also contains an evaluation of specific buildings having merit for preservation as well as recommendations for future historic preservation actions by the County. All buildings surveyed were reported to the VDHR and their recorded information is included in the VDHR archives. Cultural resource surveys and reports have been completed on federally-owned land in the County by military agencies and the National Park Service (NPS), and report data is contained within VDHR archives.

The VDHR maintains a digital record and cartographic archive of historic sites in the state, and the County participates in its data sharing system for an annual fee. Current VDHR records list 952 architectural and 1,231 archaeological sites within the County.

Virginia Landmarks Register/National Register of Historic Places

The following are listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

- Grace Church, Main Street, Yorktown

In November 1696, Governor Francis Nicholson pledged 20 pounds sterling for the construction of a church in Yorktown, and in 1697, the York-Hampton Parish Church was built on Main Street. The church, now accessed via Church Street, is one of the few surviving colonial structures built of marl. During the Revolutionary War, Lord Cornwallis used the church as a magazine. Following destruction from fire in 1814, the church was reconstructed in 1848 and its name changed to Grace Church. During the Civil War, the building was used as a hospital.

- The Old Custom House, Main Street, Yorktown

This two-story brick storehouse was built in 1720 by Richard Ambler, custom collector, and served in the early-to-mid eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as one of the oldest Colonial customhouses. Because of Yorktown's importance in the tobacco trade, the Custom House may well have been the best known public building of its day in Virginia after the Capitol and Governor's Palace in Williamsburg. It served as a barracks for Revolutionary War soldiers, and from May 1861 to March 1862 Confederate General John Magruder used the building as his headquarters before relocating to Lee Hall. In 1882 the building was sold to an African-American physician, Dr. D.M. McNorton, who used the building for his office. A school for African-American children was held on the second-floor landing, and Dr. McNorton's daughter taught music there. The current owner is the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who purchased the property in 1924. Following extensive renovations, the site was opened to the public for historic tours in 1930. The building also houses a small museum relating to the history of the site and the DAR contributions to its 20th Century revitalization.



Old Custom House *courtesy of National Park Service*

- Kiskiack, or Lee House, U.S. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown

This is a brick farmhouse built during the late seventeenth century. Henry Lee obtained a patent for the property in 1641. Lee served as a justice for the Court of York and was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.

- Sessions-Pope-Sheild House, Main Street, Yorktown

This one-and-a-half story brick dwelling is considered one of the finest examples of mid-eighteenth century colonial architecture. The building has remained intact for close to 300 years. During the Civil War, the building served as headquarters for Union General Henry M. Naglee following the abandonment of the town by the Confederates. The property has remained in the Sheild family since 1901, and has hosted Presidents Wilson, Harding, Hoover, and Franklin Roosevelt.

- Porto Bello, Camp Peary

This plantation site was once the dwelling of Lord Dunmore, Virginia's last royal governor. A small brick house remains today, but there were originally several other plantation buildings on this site, including workshops, barns, and stables. It was from here that Lord Dunmore fled to his ship the *Fowey* on the York River to escape patriot hostility in 1775.

- Yorktown Shipwrecks

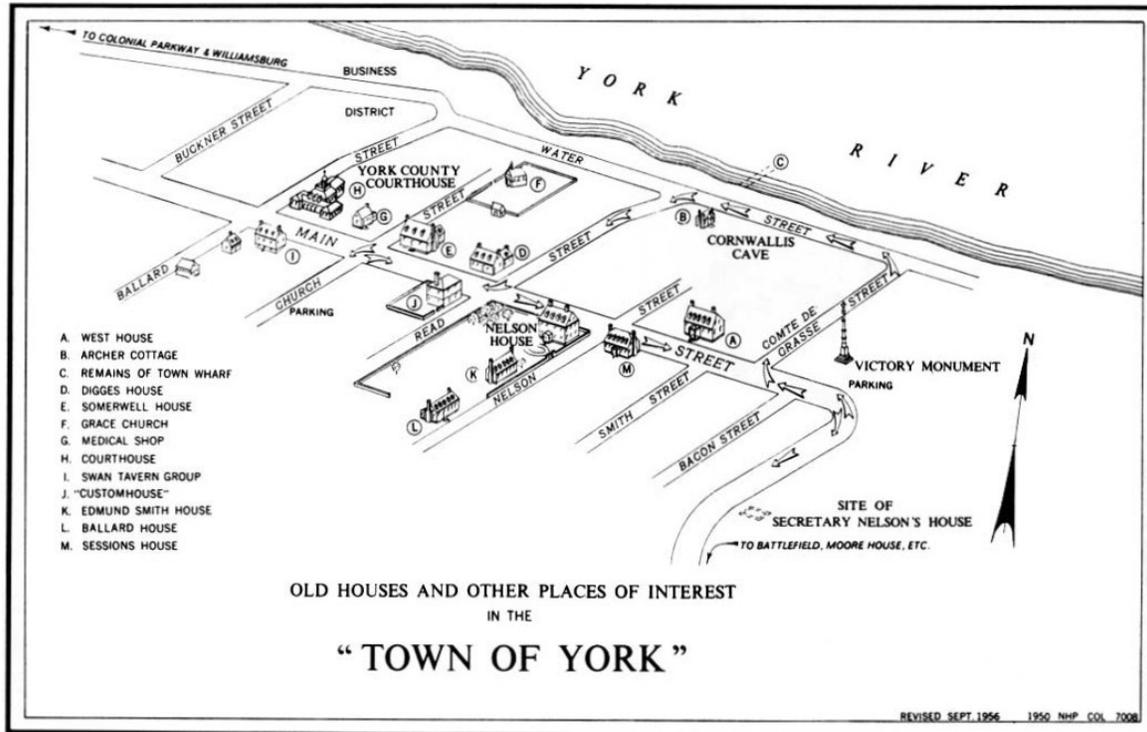
This area contains the remains of British ships sunk in the York River during the siege of 1781. Known ships include the 44-gun *Charon*, the 28-gun frigate *Guadaloupe*, the 44-gun frigate *Fowey*, and a number of smaller ships and boats.

- Queen Mary's Port, Capitol Landing, York County and Williamsburg

This area contains the archaeological remains of facilities associated with the commercial port established by the Virginia Assembly in 1699. The port, active and thriving through the end of the Revolutionary War, was located on Queen's Creek at the end of Capitol Landing Road (then called Queen's Road). This road served as the main travel way between the port and the City of Williamsburg. The area once contained a public wharf, tobacco inspection warehouses, taverns, and several bridges across Queen's Creek that provided valuable transportation links for the residents of Williamsburg and upper York County. A ferry also ran between Capitol Landing across the York River to Gloucester County during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

- Yorktown Historic District

The Historic District encompasses approximately 4,500 acres of land, and includes portions of the Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown Village, the Moore House, Yorktown Battlefield, Surrender Field, Commander's Headquarters, and cemeteries. Yorktown village was established in 1691 by the Virginia Port Act on land originally part of the Captain Nicholas Martiau tract. The 50-acre village was laid out in 85 half-acre lots on the bluffs above the York River. The original street and lot lines remain to this day. Land was left between the town lots and the river for the development of wharves, stores and lodgings. The town was a prosperous commercial port for much of the eighteenth century. The town is best known as the site of the Revolutionary War siege and surrender of the British army under Major General Lord Charles Cornwallis to General George Washington, the Comte de Grasse, and the Comte de Rochambeau in 1781. Following the destruction of much of the town during the siege of 1781, the town changed from a commercial center to a quiet village. During the Civil War, the town was first occupied by Confederate forces under Major General John Magruder from May 1861 to May 1862, and later served as a troop dispatch area and supply staging area for Union forces under Major General George McClellan. Some of the fortifications constructed during the war are still visible. The town contains numerous historic buildings, including Grace Church, the Pope-Sessions-Sheild House, Dudley Diggs House (West House), Thomas Pate House (Cole Digges House), Old Custom House, Nelson House, and the William Rogers pottery kilns. The NPS has undertaken archaeological investigations at the kiln site, and has built an interpretive center around the site.



1956 Tourist Map of Yorktown

Courtesy of National Park Service

- William Gooch Tomb and York Village Archaeological Site, U.S. Coast Guard Training Center

William Gooch was a member of the House of Burgesses and was appointed to the Council in 1655. York Village was the forerunner of Yorktown, established two miles to the west in 1691. The first permanent English settlement on the York River was established on land surrounding the Gooch tomb. Trenches east of the tomb are remnants of Union Battery No. 4, which was mounted with seacoast mortar guns in 1862 during the Civil War Peninsula Campaign.

- Bryan Manor Plantation, 1½ miles east of Williamsburg

This archaeological site contains the remains of a mid-eighteenth century plantation complex and includes a tabletop tombstone dating to 1760. A second cemetery area dates to the nineteenth century and grave markers bear the names of members of the Lee family. Frederick Bryan purchased the property in 1757 and built a brick plantation house on the property. During the 1760s, Bryan served as York County Sheriff and was a vestryman at Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg.

- Bruton Parish Poorhouse Archaeological Site, near Route 132 and Interstate 64

This site contains the intact remains of an eighteenth century workhouse for the poor, which was established by an act of the Virginia legislature in 1755. The facility was established at the request of Bruton Parish Church, which provided institutional care for the poor of the Williamsburg area.

- Dam #1 Battlefield Site, York County and Newport News

This Civil War battlefield site, the majority of which is located in Newport News Park, contains archaeological remains of the noted battle in which Confederate Major General John Magruder successfully repelled an attack by Union Major General George McClellan on April 16, 1862.

- Whitaker's Mill Archaeological Complex, near Route 199 and Water Country Parkway

This site contains the archaeological remains of a mill site dating to the 17th Century, an 18th Century road trace, brick kiln, and defensive fortifications and encampments associated with both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War Peninsula Campaign.

- Oak Grove Baptist Church Historic District, northwest York County

This district is made up of five geographically separated sites located within a 1.5-mile-square area of northwest York County. Its history is the story of a vibrant African-American congregation during the early stages of segregated, free public education in the county. The district includes the site of the original church built in 1900 (replaced and relocated in 1947), an adjacent cemetery established in 1901, the site of an associated school built in 1912, the current 1947 church, and a second cemetery established in 1945. Generations of free and enslaved African-Americans worshiped and were members of the First Baptist Church (from where the Oak Grove Church congregation originated) since its founding in 1776. Following the purchase of land and construction of the 1900 church building, members of the First Baptist Church formed their own independent congregation named Oak Grove Baptist Church. Together with other African-American churches in the area and the local Bruton District School Board, the congregation established the Oak Grove School for African-American students in 1912. The congregation was forced to relocate their church as a result of federal land condemnation for the establishment of the U.S. Naval Construction Training Center (Camp Peary) in 1942. The congregation purchased land for a new church and a cemetery in 1945, and constructed the current church building in 1947. This historic district is significant for its association with the Reconstruction-era community of Magruder (established by emancipated African-Americans) and its resiliency following its 1942 displacement.

Museums

York County is home to several museums providing exhibits and programs interpreting the County's history from prehistoric times to the present day.

The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, operated by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is located on Water Street near the Yorktown Battlefield. The facility, first established in 1976 as the Yorktown Victory Center, maintains a historical focus of the period leading up to the American Revolution through the adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights at the end of the 18th Century. The Foundation implemented a major expansion of the facility in 2016, which included replacement of the 1976 museum building with a larger building and enhanced indoor and outdoor exhibits and activities. Indoor galleries feature dioramas, period artifacts, interactive exhibits, and a 180-degree surround theater. Outdoor living history exhibits include a Continental Army encampment that includes tents for soldiers and officers, surgeon and quartermaster's quarters, drill field, and an artillery demonstration area. Visitors can interact with historical interpreters representing soldiers and others found in an 18th Century military camp. A recreated 1780s family farm includes a farm house, kitchen, tobacco barn, quarters for enslaved people, farm fields, and an orchard. The farm offers visitors the opportunity to interact with historical interpreters and participate in daily farm chores and activities.

The York County Historical Museum is located in York Hall on Main Street in the center of the Yorktown village historical area. The museum contains artifacts, educational information, and exhibits about York County's past, including regional Native American culture, African-American history, Colonial Yorktown, Revolutionary and Civil War periods, and the 20th Century. The Museum on Main, an extension of the York Hall museum, is located next to York Hall in the Medicine Shop building, a recreated 18th Century building owned by the NPS. The museum hosts changing special exhibits that include artifacts, photos, artwork, and interpretive displays depicting major events in the County's history. Exhibits have included images of Yorktown during the Civil War and the County's African-American history.

The Custom House, located on Main Street in Yorktown, was built in 1720 by local businessman and custom collector Richard Ambler. The building is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The building was acquired by the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 1924, and following extensive renovations to the building and grounds, was opened for tours as a museum building in 1930. Exhibits include personal items once belonging to George Washington, Declaration of Independence signer Thomas Nelson, and the Comte de Grasse, as well as displays relating the history of Yorktown and the contributions of the DAR to the building's preservation.

The Watermen's Museum, located on the York River off of Water Street in Yorktown village, was founded in 1981 as a part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the Siege of Yorktown. The museum interprets the history of the men and women in the fishing industry of the Chesapeake Bay, from the time of Indian settlements to the present day. The lives and history of those people associated with the service and support of watermen and their vessels are also promoted in Museum programs and exhibits. Programs include living history events, boat-building, student camps, and maritime related public education and recreation events.

Colonial National Historical Park, owned and maintained by NPS, includes the Yorktown Battlefield, Jamestown Island, and Colonial Parkway. The 10,221-acre park was first established by Congress as a National Monument in 1930, and designated a National Historical Park in 1936. The Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center, constructed in 1957, offers visitor orientation films, interpretive presentations and guided tours, and exhibits focusing on the 1781 Siege of Yorktown and other local history. The Battlefield Park area includes auto and bicycle tour roads and a portion of the historic Colonial Parkway. The Yorktown Victory Monument, located at the eastern end of Main Street near the visitor center, was constructed to commemorate the October 19, 1781 surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General George Washington. Construction of the monument did not start until 1881, when the cornerstone was laid during the opening ceremonies for the Yorktown Centennial Celebration. The monument was completed in 1884, when the Lady Liberty figure was installed on the top of the structure. Park facilities also include the National Cemetery, located off of Cook Road just south of the Ballard Street intersection. The cemetery was established by the U.S. War Department in 1866 and was transferred to the NPS in 1933. A small visitor center is located on the site, and the cemetery contains 2,204 burials; 747 of known persons and 1,436 unknown. Most burials are of Union soldiers, and there are also graves of ten Confederate soldiers and three wives. West of the cemetery is the former site of Uniontown (also called Slabtown), an African-American community first established by the Union Army during the Civil War as a camp to house slaves seeking freedom at the Union-controlled Yorktown garrison. The NPS has installed an interpretive marker telling the story of the community near the visitor parking area at the National Cemetery. The NPS owns several historic properties in the Yorktown village area, including the Thomas Nelson House (circa 1730), Augustine Moore House (circa 1730), and the Poor Potter archaeological site, where remains of the pottery kilns operated by William Rogers in the early 1700s can be seen.



Designated Historic Trails

In 2011, the County participated with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in the establishment of York County's section of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the

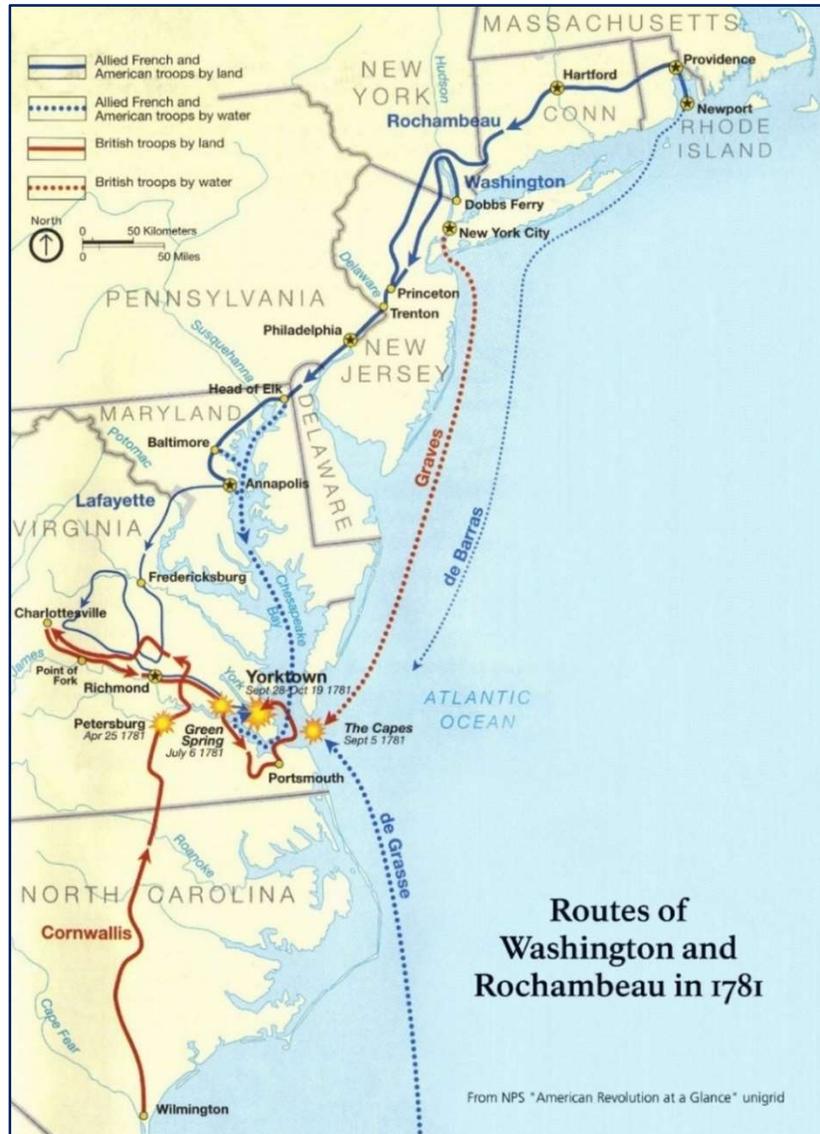
nation's first water trail. The trail follows the York River along the length of the County where, between 1607 and 1609, Captain John Smith explored and documented the landscapes, natural resources, and American Indian cultures around the Chesapeake Bay. The trail program includes driving and water access guide maps, interpretive markers, and information brochures for each segment of the trail.



York County sites on the Captain John Smith Trail

Source: VDCR

In March 2009 Congress designated the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) as a National Historic Trail, one of several historically significant trails included in the trails program administered by the NPS. The land and water trail corridor, which extends from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, includes the many routes used by allied French and American forces between 1781 and 1783 for communications, troop dispatch, and supplies during the Revolutionary War. In 1781, American and French troops traversed the route from the north to a final destination that ended with the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Major General Cornwallis to General Washington. The trail corridor also includes the armies' return routes taken toward northern colonies following Cornwallis' surrender. The NPS partners with the U.S. Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, preserving, and publically promoting W3R documents, routes, and associated historic sites within the thirteen W3R states. Each of the states has its own state organization, including the Virginia Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R-VA), dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and commemoration of the W3R routes through Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay.



Historical Markers

The County has several historical highway markers installed under the VDHR Historical Marker Program. Participation in the program is a valuable means to help educate the public on state history as well as promote tourism. Any person or organization can submit a proposal for a highway marker. To qualify for a state historical marker, a person, place, event, or institution must have state or national historical significance attained fifty or more years in the past. The Virginia Department of Transportation retains responsibility for the installation of new markers and the maintenance of existing ones. Currently, York County has historical markers displaying the following information:

- Mary Aggie and the Benefit of Clergy – Goosley Road, Yorktown

“Mary Aggie, an enslaved woman, was convicted of theft in York County in 1730. Lt. Gov. William Gooch, impressed with Aggie’s profession of faith when she had sued previously for her freedom, supported her 1730 claim for “benefit of clergy,” which then allowed only white men to escape the harshest penalties for most first time offenses by reading a passage from the Bible. Gooch’s support

resulted in Aggie's pardon on the condition that she be sold out of Virginia. In 1732, the General Assembly extended a modified form of benefit of clergy to all races and to women. Aggie probably never knew her plea's significant legal effect. Virginia abolished the benefit by 1848."

- Patrick Napier, Colonial Surgeon – Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg

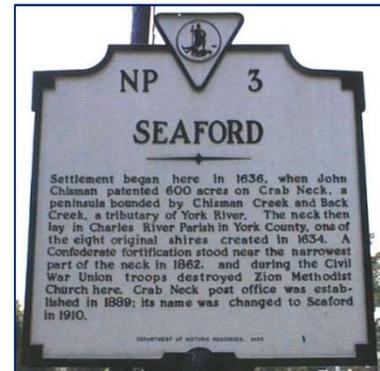
"Nearby lived "Patrick Napier of Queens Creek in the County of Yorke surgeon," one of the earliest surgeons of Scottish descent in Virginia. Born about 1634 and apprenticed to the surgeon general of the Scottish army defeated by Cromwell in 1650, Patrick Napier arrived here before 1655. He married Elizabeth, a daughter of Robert Booth, Clerk of York County Court and a member of the House of Burgesses. By horse and boat, Napier attended the sick, performed surgery, and bled his patients, and dispensed various remedies consistent with the practice of medicine in the mid-17th century. He died in 1669. He was the progenitor of most of the Napiers in America."

- Vineyard Tract - Penniman Road, Williamsburg

"Here was an experimental farm for the culture of grapes established by the Virginia government in 1769. On this tract stood a hospital of the French-American army in 1781."

Seaford - Seaford Road, Seaford

"Settlement began here in 1636, when John Chisman patented 600 acres on Crab Neck, a peninsula bounded by Chisman Creek and Back Creek, a tributary of York River. The neck then lay in Charles River Parish in York County, one of the eight original shires created in 1634. A Confederate fortification stood near the narrowest part of the neck until 1862, and during the Civil War Union troops destroyed Zion Methodist Church here. Crab Neck post office was established in 1889; its name was changed to Seaford in 1910."



- Whitaker's House - Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg

"A mile north of the road is Whitaker's House, headquarters of General W.F. Smith, Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862."

- Charles Church - Hampton Highway and George Washington Memorial Highway, Tabb

"About one mile east, on north (left-hand) side of road (see stone marker and old foundations) stood the last colonial church of Charles Parish, built about 1709 and burned a century later on the site of two earlier churches of the Parish, built about 1636 and 1692. This Parish was first known as New Poquoson Parish in 1692 and was renamed Charles Parish in 1692."

- Goodwin Neck - Goodwin Neck Road, Seaford

"This area, locally known as Dandy, was part of the land granted by John Chew July 6, 1636, and was sold by his heirs to James Goodwin, a member of the House of Burgesses from Jamestown, August 27, 1668. The area was strategically important to British General Charles Cornwallis and to Confederate General John B. Magruder, who erected earth redoubts at the head of several creeks on Goodwin Neck."

- York County – George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17) at the Newport News line

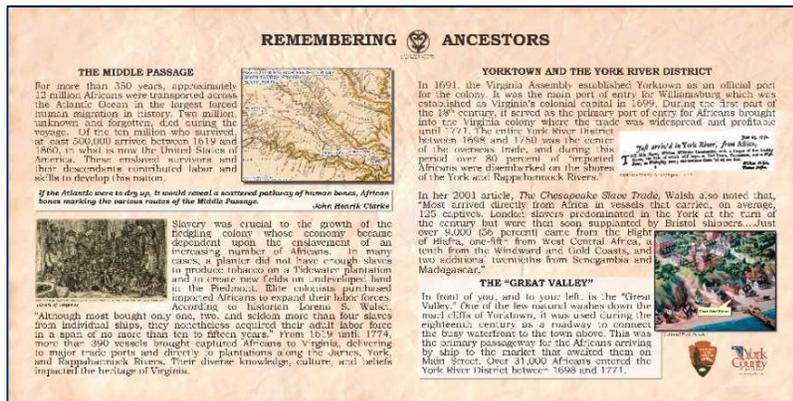
“One of the eight original shires formed in 1634. First called Charles River, which was named for King Charles I. The name was changed in 1643 to York for Yorkshire, England. Cornwallis’s surrender, October 19, 1781 took place at Yorktown.”

- The Reservation – Jefferson Avenue (Route 143) at Gate 3 of the U.S. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown

“Free African Americans settled in this area prior to the Civil War, forming a community later known as The Reservation. The populations grew as emancipated people arrived during and after the war. Residents of the self-sustained community owned farms and businesses, cultivated oysters, and built a school, fraternal halls, and three churches. Among those buried at Cheesecake Cemetery, final resting place of many community founders, is Medal of Honor recipient Edward Ratcliff, who served in the 38th U.S. Colored Troops in the Civil War. In 1918, the U.S. government used eminent domain to establish a Navy mine depot here during World War I, displacing hundreds of African American Residents.”

In addition to the noted VDHR markers, the County also has interpretive signage installed at numerous locations by the National Park Service (NPS), Civil Wars Trails, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, York County Division of Parks and Recreation and Division of Economic and Tourism Development, as well as private historical organizations.

The NPS has installed many interpretive signs throughout the Yorktown Battlefield area, along the Colonial Parkway, and within the Yorktown village. In addition to signage interpreting history related to Revolutionary War events, the NPS has also installed signs relating the stories of the early Native American cultures, first English settlements, African-American history, the Civil War Peninsula Campaign, local military installations, York County during the World Wars, and the importance of the York River in the history of the County.



This marker, which tells the story of the Middle Passage slave trade, is one of many interpretive signs installed in the Yorktown village area. It is located off of Water Street and was installed by the National Park Service and York County. The sign, sponsored by the international Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project and the York County Middle Passage Committee, was the first installed in the country as part of the Middle Passage Project.

Three Captain John Smith Historic Trail markers as described below are located in York County at Riverwalk Landing, New Quarter Park, and at the corner of Main and Ballard Streets in the Yorktown village.

- New Quarter Park

This sign tells the story of the 16th Century Jesuit mission named Ajacan, located in the vicinity of the Park, and the American Indian Paquinqueneo, who was captured and educated by the Spanish to serve as a guide and interpreter at the mission before leaving to return to his native people. The sign also

tells about life on the 18th Century plantation owned by Robert “King” Carter and located on a portion of the present-day park property.

- Corner of Ballard and Main Streets



This sign tells about John Smith’s management of the original English colony and the friction between the affluent sponsors of the settlement project, who wanted the colonists to search for treasure, and the practical Smith, who was more concerned with building a strong sustainable community. The sign also relates the history of the Yorktown Day commemoration.

- Riverwalk Landing

This sign tells about the Powhatan Indian settlement and trading center called Kiskiack, located on the York River in the vicinity of present day Yorktown. Colonists at Jamestown traded copper for shell beads and corn from the Indians. Also included on the sign is information gained from archaeological research on the Kiskiack site, which includes evidence of a 17th Century fort, an 18th Century home site, and 18th and 19th Century occupation of the area by both Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers.

The Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania in cooperation with the National Federation of Huguenot Societies and the Yorktown Sesquicentennial Commission installed a commemorative monument on the site of the home of Nicolas Martiau, considered to be one of the earliest founders of the village of Yorktown. The monument, installed in 1931, is located on property at the corner of Ballard and Main Streets in Yorktown.

“Site of the Home of Nicolas Martiau

The adventurous Huguenot who was born in France 1591. Came to Virginia 1620 and died at Yorktown 1657. He was a captain in the Indian uprising, a member of the House of Burgesses, Justice of the County of York. In 1635 a leader in the thrusting out of Governor Harvey which was the first opposition to the British colonial policy. The patentee for Yorktown and through the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Col. George Reade he became the earliest American ancestor of both General George Washington and Governor Thomas Nelson.”

Three interpretive markers have been installed in the County through the Civil War Trails program. They are located at the Yorktown waterfront, New Quarter Park, and near the intersection of Goosley Road and Route 17. They are among the more than 1,000 interpretive signs installed by the non-profit organization at Civil War sites in Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, West Virginia, and North Carolina. The waterfront sign tells of the Confederate occupation of Yorktown under General John Magruder in early 1862, the subsequent siege of the town by Union forces under General George McClellan, and later use of the town and river as a Union garrison and staging area for later troop advances. The sign on Goosley Road describes the Confederate earthworks surrounding Yorktown and tells of the Union Army of the Potomac’s advance toward Yorktown, installation of heavy artillery aimed at the town, and later withdrawal of Confederate forces toward Williamsburg. The New Quarter Park marker tells of several Confederate earthworks

located in the park area that were installed with others across the Peninsula to delay a Union advance toward Richmond. In early May 1862, the present-day park area was part of the Battle of Williamsburg. The *Yorktown Master Plan* adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1993 included a recommendation to install historical interpretive signs along the Yorktown riverfront walkway. In December 2010 the recommendation became a reality when 28 signs were installed following much research work and collaboration among the York County Historical Museum, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Watermen’s Museum, National Park Service, and County Planning and Parks and Recreation staff. The signs display the images and stories of varied natural and historical events related to the river and the County from the time of the earliest American Indian inhabitants to modern-day watermen’s use of the river.



Four statues have been installed at Riverwalk Landing in celebration and recognition of the French and American alliance during the Revolutionary War. French Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, comte de Grasse, French Volunteer Major General Marquis de Lafayette, French Lieutenant General Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, and Continental Army General George Washington stand as if in conversation by the York River. Organizations contributing resources and sponsoring the installation of the four statues have included York County, National Park Service, American Friends of Lafayette, Celebrate Yorktown Committee of the Yorktown Foundation, Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, Association of the Order of Lafayette, l’Association Amis de Rochambeau, and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

PLANNING ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

Although the Comprehensive Plan is a document that focuses on the future, it is important not to lose sight of York County’s past and the need to preserve the County’s rich historical heritage. In fact, the subtitle of the County’s original 1991 Comprehensive Plan was “Preserving the Past, Ensuring the Future.” With a balanced approach, it is possible to preserve individual property rights and historic resources at the same time, and the County has undertaken several initiatives intended to ensure that development is sensitive to our history.

The Yorktown Village Activity zoning district was initially established in 1981 as the PD-VA (Planned Development-Village Activity) district. With the 1995 County-wide comprehensive rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance, its name was changed to YVA (Yorktown Village Activity), but its basic purpose, to protect Yorktown’s special character, remains the same. The stated intent of this district is to:

1. Recognize Yorktown which, because of its national and international significance, its unique development history and the interrelatedness of historic, residential and commercial land uses, warrants the application of a special approach to further development; and
2. Recognize and implement the Yorktown Master Plan as an overall guide to the future redevelopment of Yorktown; and
3. Provide development opportunities for a variety of land uses which will contribute to and complement the unique character and village atmosphere of Yorktown; and

4. Promote economical and efficient land use, an improved level of amenities, innovative design, and unified development; and
5. Encourage pedestrian and bicycle-scale development in Yorktown and make the community more amenable to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Special review procedures are required for development in this district, and development proposals must adequately address the above issues.

The Historic Resources Management (HRM) overlay district provisions set forth in Section 24.1-374 of the York County Zoning Ordinance were established to “protect the historic cultural resources of the county by ensuring that historic buildings and archeological sites are acknowledged, properly documented, and protected or recovered as development activity occurs.” The HRM district, which applies to all properties containing architectural or archaeological resources listed in the VDHR database, requires the study and evaluation (as to eligibility for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register or National Register of Historic Places) of such resources prior to any proposed development activity. Studies must meet applicable criteria set forth in standards and guidelines published by VDHR and the Secretary of the Interior for archaeological preservation and historic building rehabilitation. Where such resources cannot be preserved in place, appropriate further data and resource recovery and documentation studies are required. VDHR is available to provide technical assistance in reviewing studies for compliance with noted standards and guidelines.

Subsequent to the completion of the 1990 CWF *Resource Protection Planning* report, the Board of Supervisors adopted two important planning documents that, in part, emphasize preservation of the historical character of the village of Yorktown. The *Yorktown Master Plan* was adopted March 4, 1993, with a stated goal to “Create in Yorktown a vibrant community of people living, working, learning, visiting and playing; while enhancing its national stature, and respecting and preserving its continuing history, environment and character.” The Plan is referenced in the Zoning Ordinance with respect to administration of the Yorktown Village Activity zoning district. The Plan includes the following objectives.

Provide for public improvement projects in Yorktown that are consistent with the direction provided by the “Focus on Yorktown” concept plan, responsive to the historic context of the Town, sensitive to the concerns of Yorktown’s residents, adaptable to modern functional requirements, and economically feasible from an engineering perspective.

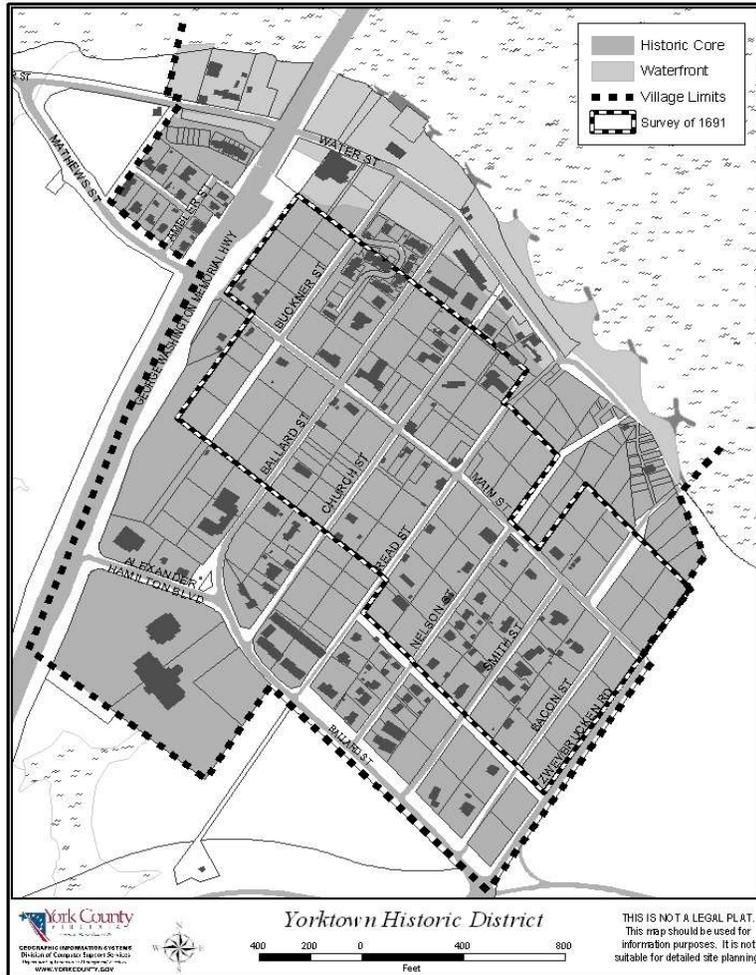
Provide opportunities and encouragement for a range of land uses on privately owned land that complements the Town’s historic character and is feasible from a market perspective.

Serve as the basis on which to develop a set of design guidelines for Yorktown’s streets, architecture and landscape.

The Yorktown Historic District and Design Guidelines were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 2, 2003. The guidelines contain the following goals for the Yorktown Historic District and the two distinct character areas therein, identified as the Historic Core and the Waterfront. As shown on the Yorktown Historic District map, the Historic Core contains the majority of the town’s significant architectural resources and includes areas of the village within the original survey of 1691 as well as adjacent areas of topographic similarity. The Waterfront generally comprises the area between the crest of the bluffs that run along the south side of Water Street and the York River.

Historic District

- *Protect Yorktown's village character and its historic, cultural, and natural resources.*
- *Promote better understanding, appreciation, and use of Yorktown's historic, cultural, and natural resources on the part of Village and County residents, property owners, merchants, County of York officials, National Park Service personnel, and visitors.*



- *Promote better understanding, appreciation, and use of Yorktown's historic, cultural, and natural resources on the part of the Village and County residents, property owners, merchants, County of York officials, National Park personnel, and visitors.*

The Historic Core

- *Preserve and protect all pivotal resources (pre-1866); encourage the appropriate maintenance, repair, and supplemental design of all contributing resources (post-Civil War); encourage compatibility of non-contributing structures with pivotal and contributing resources.*
- *Decrease the impact of new construction or site development and ensure that new construction is appropriate to the history and village character of Yorktown, as well as to the commercial recreational, and cultural character of the Waterfront.*

The Waterfront

- *Promote the appropriate maintenance, repair and supplemental design of all contributing resources, and encourage the compatibility of non-contributing structures and features, in accordance with the Waterfront's existing commercial, recreational, and historical character.*
- *Ensure that new construction is appropriate to the history and village character of Yorktown, as well as to the commercial, recreational, and cultural character of the Waterfront.*

The opportunity exists for additional historic properties to be added to the historic registers, and the County continues to participate in the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register programs. The Register programs set forth specific standards for evaluating the significance of properties to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a significant contribution to the history and heritage of the state and/or nation. The criteria are designed to guide state and local governments, federal agencies, and others in evaluating potential entries for the National or State Registers.

Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or

- D. A cemetery which derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- G. A property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

Tourism is a major component of the County’s economy, and utilizing the County’s historical assets for heritage tourism is and should continue to be encouraged. Promotion of these assets can serve to protect valuable historical resources, educate residents and visitors about local history, build stronger communities with a better “sense of place,” and promote economic vitality. Building private and public partnerships to meet tourism needs is essential. Key groups can include educators, property owners, tourism professionals, hotel/motel, retail and restaurant owners, curators and preservationists, local government staff, officials, and volunteers. Participation in events such as the Jamestown 2007, the American Civil War Sesquicentennial, the 100th Anniversary of WWI, the 75th Anniversary of WWII, and the upcoming America 250 Anniversary of American Independence commemorations provides opportunities to promote regional historic resources and realize the benefits of heritage tourism. Another example of a successful event of international significance was the visit of the French tall ship *L’Hermione* to Yorktown in 2015. The ship is a replica of the frigate that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to Boston in 1780 and was later present in Yorktown during the Siege of 1781. Looking to the future, it will be important to capitalize on technology and communications advances in efforts to promote heritage tourism in the County and the region to a worldwide audience.



French frigate L’Hermione fires her cannon as she sails into Yorktown on June 5, 2015. Yorktown was her first stop in the United States during a commemorative voyage celebrating the alliance of the French and American armies during the Revolutionary War. The visit was a huge tourism success, and numerous partners and sponsors hosted events for thousands of visitors in Yorktown during the ship’s 3-day visit.

Both the 1990 CWF survey and the 2000 County architectural resources survey included several recommendations for historic preservation actions the County should consider. The following objectives and strategies include recommendations from these reports as well as input from members of the York County Historical Committee and the general public.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Goal: Identify, preserve, protect, and enhance the County's existing and future historical resources.

Objective 1: Maintain accurate and up-to-date inventories of known archaeological and architectural resources.

1. Coordinate the sharing of information (as through VDHR) as inventories are conducted on the large amount of federally-owned land in the County.

Long-range and current land use planning and development activities on properties under federal jurisdiction (such as military installations and National Park Service properties) can include historical archaeological and/or architectural evaluation studies. For example, such evaluations are required as part of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 permits for disturbance of wetlands. VDHR, in its role as State Historic Preservation Officer, is the reviewing agent for historical resource studies conducted on federal lands. The County is notified by VDHR when historic resource studies are submitted for review, and VDHR is a repository for finalized studies, which are available to the County under license with the V-CRIS system. These studies will contain valuable information relative to County-wide and regional historical and cultural resources, which will support and enhance County efforts in historic resource preservation and public education.

2. Initiate a County-wide evaluation of identified archaeological sites.

An inventory and evaluation of the County's historic architectural resources was conducted in 2000. A similar evaluation of known archaeological sites is needed to identify and prioritize those resources meeting criteria for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and/or the National Register of Historic Places. Special attention should be given to the Yorktown Historic Core, which is recognized in the VDHR database as a historic district. Such a study would include an assessment of sites having especially valuable historical significance and would formulate management strategies for the preservation of such sites. County GIS (Geographic Information System) resources should be utilized to maintain these and other historic resources maps and associated archival data.

3. Support and promote the efforts of the York County Historical Museum, a non-profit organization that owns and maintains an extensive archive facility dedicated to the preservation of County related historical artifacts.

In addition to operating the public museum, the organization maintains regularly-updated detailed digital records of the artifacts in its repository located in their Museum facility in York Hall.

Objective 2: Ensure that important historic resources are identified, evaluated, preserved, and protected throughout the development process.

1. Utilize the VDHR data sharing system in reviewing and evaluating development proposals for compliance with the Historic Resources Management overlay zoning district provisions of the Zoning Ordinance and engage the services of VDHR staff for technical assistance.

The VDHR database, accessed through GIS mapping, provides general locations of architectural and archaeological resources but is not accurate to the level of an engineered survey (especially in reference to archaeological resources). It should be used as tool to determine those areas having a high potential for the existence of historic resources. Many mapped sites are based on old (and therefore potentially inaccurate) maps and land records, prompting the need for more detailed study as set forth in the Historic Resources Management overlay district provisions of the County Zoning

Ordinance. One example of such a resource is historic cemeteries, which often extend beyond the location of existing headstones.

2. Participate as a consulting party in Section 106 reviews of federal projects in the County.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve. If a federal or federally-funded project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place, and the sponsoring agency will invite interested parties, including the local government in whose jurisdiction the project is located, to participate as consulting parties. The agency coordinates with consulting parties in evaluating historic properties, the potential project effects on such properties, and possible means of avoiding or mitigating adverse effects on such properties. For example, the County served as a consulting party for the Interstate 64 corridor study conducted by VDOT in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration.

Objective 3: Promote public awareness of County historic resources for persons of all ages for the educational, civic, and economic benefit of the County and its citizens.

1. Establish and maintain a County historical sign/marker program.

Numerous informational signs and interpretive markers have been installed in the County by organizations such as the National Park Service, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Civil War Trails, and York County. They serve as valuable tools to educate the public about and promote heritage tourism for the County. In coordination with local historical organizations, an inventory of existing signs and markers, including sign content and location, should be compiled along with a list of suggested new signs needed to expand promotion of local sites and their stories.

2. Support and coordinate with local, regional, state, national, and international historic preservation and tourism organizations in joint efforts to engage the public and encourage visitation to York County's historic sites.

Many opportunities exist for the County to partner with agencies and organizations in promoting heritage tourism. The County supports the efforts of several local organizations dedicated to the promotion of York County history, including, but not limited to, the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, York County Historical Committee, and the York County Historical Museum. Tourism agencies such as the Virginia Tourism Corporation, York County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, and agencies operating regional visitor centers provide valuable media sources to publicize information about historic sites and related special events. It is also important to participate with and support organizations promoting regional historic preservation and promotion efforts such as the National and Virginia Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Associations, American Battlefield Trust, Civil War Trails, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Virginia Alliance of Museums, Peninsula Museum Forum, and Preservation Virginia.

Grant opportunities and other funding resources should be explored for preservation activities. Opportunities exist with local, state, and federal government grant programs, non-profit organizations, and/or tax incentive programs for a variety of preservation activities. Valuable partnerships can be formed in pursuing funding for projects benefitting both the County and like-minded preservation organizations.

3. Promote and support history-related public education activities with local schools and community groups.

The Virginia Department of Education has established Standards of Learning for public schools that include curriculum for history and social sciences. The County should continue to promote and support special activities and events with organizations, including museums, historic sites, and libraries, that can offer students programs to assist in meeting education goals. For example, during the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration, the York County Sesquicentennial Committee, together with the NPS Colonial National Historical Battlefield Park, hosted the Civil War 150 History Mobile, a travelling multimedia educational exhibit designed by the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Virginia Historical Society. Tours of the exhibit were arranged for York County students studying American history at the time. Educational programs for both students and teachers are offered at many Virginia museums and historical sites, including the Watermen's Museum and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

4. Utilize global communication and internet assets to promote County historic resources.

With the ever expanding capabilities of public internet facilities, valuable opportunities can be found to raise awareness of and educate the public about York County historic resources. The County Public Affairs office utilizes their local government access cable channels, website, social media pages, quarterly Citizen News publication, press releases and printed materials to promote various County programs and events. These resources should continue to be used to promote history related events, programs, and educational materials. Many history oriented organizations hold meetings, lectures, and special programs using virtual internet applications, and the County can assist in advertising and sponsoring these events. Mobile applications are being developed to serve as tourism guides, including the Yorktown Tour Guide, created by the American Battlefield Trust in partnership with the National Park Service Colonial National Battlefield Park. The free GPS-enabled audio tours guide participants through centuries of Yorktown history on both walking and driving tours of Yorktown village and the Yorktown Battlefield. The County should continue to sponsor and promote development of such applications and other digital media advocating the County's historic resources and their preservation.