

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

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

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Montross Historic DistrictOther names/site number: DHR # 263-5038Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: Virginia State Route 3/Kings Highway, Court Square, Alma Lane, Ames Lane, Polk Street, Rectory RoadCity or town: MontrossState: VACounty: WestmorelandNot For Publication: N/AVicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

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

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

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

		<u>9-7-2023</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>121</u>	<u>37</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>134</u>	<u>51</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure; Hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business; Specialty Store; Department Store; Financial Institution

GOVERNMENT/Courthouse; Correctional Facility

EDUCATION/School

RELIGION/Religious facility

FUNERARY/Cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Theater; Museum; Monument/Marker

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/Manufacturing facility; Energy facility;

Waterworks

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure; Hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business; Specialty Store; Department Store; Financial Institution

GOVERNMENT/Courthouse

EDUCATION/School

RELIGION/Religious facility

FUNERARY/Cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum; Monument/Marker

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/Energy facility; Waterworks

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival, Greek Revival

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

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman, Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco, Modern; Minimal Traditional (Cape Cod),

OTHER: I-house, American Foursquare, Post-Modern – Neo-Eclectic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE, METAL, ASPHALT, CONCRETE, GLASS, SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Montross Historic District encompasses architectural resources along Virginia State Route 3/Kings Highway in the Town of Montross, the county seat of Westmoreland County, Virginia. The county is situated on the Northern Neck of Virginia, a peninsula formed between the Potomac River on the north and the Rappahannock River on the south, and remains predominantly rural in character with only two incorporated towns. The Town of Montross, formerly known as Westmoreland Court House, stands near the center of Westmoreland County and has been the seat of government since the late seventeenth century, although there are no known physical aspects in the historic district that are associated with that early time period. The historic district is linear in character and includes historic architectural resources that are significantly related to the town's and the county's history, the town's development as the center of the local government, and as an important commercial center for residents in the surrounding rural area. In addition to governmental and commercial resources, the district includes religious, educational, and industrial resources, as well as residential resources located primarily at the edges of the area. The courthouses built in town during the late seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries are no longer extant; the former courthouse (263-0001) that stands in the historic district, which is now a museum, was built in 1900 and remodeled in 1936.¹ A portion of the foundation of the Inn at Montross/Spence's Tavern (263-5037) may date to the late eighteenth century, but additional documentation is needed to confirm this

¹ The current county courthouse, completed in 2014 and designed by DBF Associates, architects, stands at 175 Polk Street in the Town of Montross, north of the former courthouse and outside of the historic district boundaries.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

assertion. The oldest standing building in the historic district is Mont Calm (263-0006, 15527 Kings Highway), a handsome Federal dwelling constructed about 1810. Other nineteenth-century resources in the district include several residences (263-0004, -0007, -0008, -5002, -5003, and -5036) and St. James Episcopal Church (263-0002). Many of the commercial and industrial buildings in the district date to the early twentieth century. Important landscape elements in the historic district include the former courthouse square, which is the site of several military memorial markers, and the “Virginia Presidents’ Garden” adjacent to the Westmoreland County Museum and Visitors’ Center (263-5038-0074), which was designed about 1940 by noted landscape architect Charles Freeman Gillette of Richmond. The district’s resources are predominantly executed in the Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, and commercial styles. The Federal, Gothic Revival, and mid-century Art Deco styles also are represented in the district. Vernacular buildings make up the remainder. Although several properties in the historic district have been previously recorded, only one property—the former Washington and Lee High School (263-5024)—has been previously determined eligible. None of the district resources has been individually listed in the National Register. The Montross Historic District comprises approximately 170 acres and includes 100 parcels with 185 total resources. Of the latter, 135 are contributing resources (buildings, objects, sites, and structures) and 50 are non-contributing resources (buildings, objects, structures). Non-contributing resources are generally those that were constructed after the period of significance (ca. 1810-1970) or are historic resources that have been substantially altered and no longer possess integrity.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Montross Historic District, which is centered on the former courthouse square, extends in a linear manner along Virginia State Route 3/Kings Highway through the center of the court house town of Montross in Westmoreland County on the Northern Neck of Virginia. Westmoreland County, presently encompassing 252 square miles, was formed from Northumberland County in 1653 and extended to the northwestern end of the neck. In 1664, Stafford County was formed from the northwest end of Westmoreland and by the 1680s, Montross (then called Westmoreland Court House) was designated as the government seat due to the centrality of its location in the county. The county attained its current shape in 1777, after adding a portion of King George County extending to the Rappahannock River on the south.² The present boundaries of Westmoreland County are the Potomac River to the north, King George County to the west, the Rappahannock River to the southwest, Richmond County to the south, and Northumberland County to the southeast.

East and west of the courthouse square, commercial properties, especially those located near the courthouse and at the center of the historic district, are set close to the street with pedestrian sidewalks in front of them. In the commercial area, street parking is permitted, although some businesses have associated off-street parking lots. Residential properties at either end of the district tend to be set back on large grassy lots with mature trees in front; several of these properties are set on relatively large parcels and hold secondary domestic and agricultural resources. The eastern edge of the district includes some large tracts in agricultural production and the former high school property.³

Montross stands on a rise or flat terrace east of Chandlers Mill Run and its associated mill pond. Most of the land within the town limits is flat, but the settlement is surrounded by rolling topography and broad

² Emily J. Salmon and Edward D.C. Campbell, Jr., eds., *The Hornbook of Virginia History* (Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia, 1994), 166, 170-171.

³ The new Westmoreland High School opened August 8, 2022, east of the former high school building and outside of the historic district boundaries. Plans are underway for the reuse of the historic school building.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

uplands with low slopes and drainage divides. Streams and creeks that feed into Cat Point Creek and the Rappahannock River have created steep slopes and ravines in the surrounding landscape.

The focal point of the town, and of the historic district, is the former courthouse, which is set back from Route 3 on a .6-acre lot with a large, wooded green at the front (south) that holds three military memorials. The courthouse green is a notable landscape feature in the district, as is the Virginia Presidents' Garden, so named for its dedication to the eight United States presidents who were born in Virginia and enhanced with busts of the three who were born on the Northern Neck (Washington, Madison, and Monroe).

Montross is an incorporated town (1946), but like many of Virginia's county seats, retains the feeling of a small village. Montross served, and continues to serve, as a commercial center for the surrounding rural areas and for these reasons, this county seat includes several types of buildings related to governmental, industrial, commercial, religious, educational, and residential uses. The area directly beyond the historic district quickly reverts to forest and cultivated agricultural land. The vicinity historically has been known for its dense upland forests and continues to retain large expanses of woodland.⁴

The historic district boundaries have been drawn to include the greatest concentration of historic buildings with limited modern intrusions. In general, the district includes those parcels that face onto the main road (Route 3) or around the courthouse square. Resources located north and south of the district boundaries are generally residential in character, built after the identified period of significance, and do not relate to the district's primary areas of significance. The east and west boundaries of the district generally denote a break in the concentration of historic resources with either large tracts of undeveloped land and/or an increase in modern buildings on the landscape.

Westmoreland County, one of Virginia's early counties, is closely associated with the founding of the nation and was home to several of the Founding Fathers. Montross, in its role as the county seat of government, is significantly linked to the historical, political, and commercial development of the county. Its form and layout typify Virginia's historic settlement pattern of the centralized governmental center located within a rural county. Some of the county's, and the country's, most important historic Colonial-era landmarks are within 20 miles of Montross. To the west stands Stratford Hall (096-0024), home of the Lee family and a National Historic Landmark (NHL), and the National Register-listed properties of the James Monroe Birthplace (096-0046) and Wakefield [Pope's Creek Plantation](096-0026), George Washington's birthplace. To the east near Kinsale stands Spence's Point (096-0022), also listed as an NHL and known as the John R. Dos Passos Farm after the influential twentieth-century American writer who inherited the farm from his father and lived there during the last 25 years of his life. These properties contribute to the historical setting and feeling of the Montross Historic District and help to place the town within a larger historical context.

Description

The central resource of the Montross Historic District is the former courthouse square, which is located on the northwest side of the sharp turn in Route 3/Kings Highway as it extends through the town. The streets immediately surrounding the square are known as Court Square on the northeast and northwest, Polk Street (State Route 622) on the southwest, and Ames Lane to the north. Route 3 has been the sole transportation corridor through Montross since the early settlement period. The sharp bend in the main road responds to the presence of a deep ravine and has figured prominently in the development of that section of town. The

⁴ "A Brief History," NNKgreen.org, August 15, 2016. Accessed at the NNKgreen.org website on October 16, 2022, at <https://www.nnkgreen.org/a-brief-history>.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

presence of the courthouse engendered the village that grew up around it, with the domestic settlement and commercial development occurring as landholders, including the county, made divisions and subdivisions of their holdings and sold off the lots. Thus, no overall plat or plan for the town was drawn, and development in the area occurred incrementally.

Courthouse and Court Square Development (Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century)

Although the early Westmoreland County Courthouses are no longer standing, the historical evolution of the court square and the land associated with it significantly influenced the way in which the town developed and the placement of subsequent governmental buildings. Because there are no plats of the original courthouse property showing its bounds or placement of buildings, it is difficult to determine the precise locations of the early courthouses. Most of the documentation found in county order books suggests that the earlier buildings stood on (or near) the land granted for that purpose in the 1670s. Archaeological investigations on the present courthouse square could produce evidence of the earlier buildings. The present courthouse building, constructed in 1900, and its surrounding green remain at the core of the town and at the center of the historic district.

Westmoreland County was established in 1653 out of land formerly encompassed by Northumberland County. Westmoreland's first court met in a courthouse built near Currioman Bay. By 1678, the county justices began plans to relocate the government seat to a more centralized location. Since about 1685, a courthouse and support buildings and structures have stood at, or near, the present site in Montross. The primary resource on the court square is the former courthouse. The present building (263-0001, 15803 Kings Highway) dates to 1900 when the Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors hired the B.F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company, headed by Bartholomew F. Smith and located in Washington, D.C., "for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the county Court House and Clerk's Office at Montross." About the same time, Smith's firm completed courthouses for Accomack (1899), Northampton (1899), and Northumberland (1900) counties. The project resulted in a substantially new building that included fireproof record rooms.⁵ A 1937 history on the county courthouses states that the 1823 courthouse that stood at this site—a one-story, Flemish bond, gable-roofed building—was incorporated into Smith's building; however, it appears likely that Smith erected a completely new building, which bore similarities to the one the firm built for Northumberland County. The new Westmoreland Courthouse was larger than its predecessor, allowing the Clerk's office to be moved from a separate building on the west side of the court square into the courthouse itself.⁶

A photograph from about 1900 shows Smith's courthouse as completed (Figure 1). The two-and-a-half-story, Flemish bond brick building was covered by a slate-clad hipped roof with flared eaves supported by wooden brackets, interior chimneys on the side slopes, and a front dormer covered by a steeply pitched hipped roof. The three-bay front elevation held a centrally located main entrance, comprised of double doors and a transom, flanked by two-over-two windows on the first-floor level. On the second level, there was a centrally located single-leaf door that opened onto a balcony supported by wooden brackets and

⁵ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997); John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses* (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1995), 166-169; *The Manufacturers' Record*, Vol. 37, Issue 8 (March 15) 1900:136. Several counties in Virginia and North Carolina hired the B.F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company to design new jails and courthouses, and to build fireproof additions to existing buildings. Wells and Dalton indicate that Smith was the architect for most of the firm's work. The firm was active from 1897 to 1912.

⁶ Mrs. A.E. [Alice Robertson] Carver, "Westmoreland County Courthouses," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. 21 (1971):2211; Norris, 119; Peters and Peters, 169.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

flanked by window openings. All openings featured segmentally arched lintels. A stone plaque, centrally located and positioned between the dormer and the second-floor door opening, featured the county's name in bas relief. Notably, the courthouse faced southwest toward what is now Polk Street. Some historians record that Smith's courthouse was built atop the footprint of the 1823 courthouse, but others state that the earlier courthouse stood further to the east approximately where the Confederate monument now stands.⁷



Figure 1. Westmoreland County Courthouse, ca. 1900, which faced west onto present-day Polk Street. Note ca. 1880s jail in background. Source: Westmoreland County Museum [WCM].

Although Virginia's early courthouses often stood in an isolated village, the buildings were never, as historian Rhys Isaac notes, quite solitary "...for [the courthouse] was invariably accompanied by supporting buildings—always at least one ordinary (i.e., tavern), a lockup, and often a store." Such was the case in Montross where, throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth century, a jail, and a clerk's office stood near the courthouse and in the 1680s, the court ordered that a "stocks and pillory" be erected at the site. As evidenced by punishments ordered by the court, a ducking stool was close by, as well.⁸

⁷ W. Buren Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County, Virginia Court Houses and the Land Around Them," August 2002:40. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross.

⁸ Rhys Isaac, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1982), 88; Norris, 114, citing Westmoreland Court Records 1675/6-1688/9:529. The ducking stool, the function of which required water, was located at the former courthouse site at Currioman through the mid-eighteenth century. W. Buren

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Several jails have been built in Montross and have generally occupied the same site northeast of the courthouse. In 1911, county supervisors engaged the Pauly Jail Building Co. of St. Louis to construct a “modern two-story jail” to replace the 1880s jail (Figure 2). By November of that year, newspapers indicated that the new jail was under construction at the same site. During construction, newspaper articles stated that “the old [1880s] jail at this place that has proven a make shift is being pulled down and a new structure will be reared at the same site.” A news brief from 1942 noted that “the present jail w[a]s rebuilt in 1911 and is quite modern in its equipment.” In the late 1930s or early 1940s, the brick jail building (263-5030), 22 Ames Lane, was moved slightly east of its original site to its present location to make way for a new jail building.⁹ The new jail, however, ended up being constructed north behind the courthouse (at the corner of Court Square and Ames Lane) and remained there until the mid-1990s. Although the 1911 jail building, which is not in use, appears to be one story in height, the interior held cells stacked atop one another, for a total of four cells. The exterior walls are laid in an inconsistent bond pattern (4, 6, and 7-course American bond) and the hipped roof is covered with pressed metal shingles and has a brick corbelled cornice. The entrance, located on the southwest side and located at ground level, has a jack arch above the opening and is flanked by two corbeled pilasters.



Figure 2. Historical postcard of Westmoreland County Courthouse, with ca. 1911 jail building in background.
Source: Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society [NNVHS].

Pitts, “Jails and Justice of Early Westmoreland County,” April 6, 2002:5. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross.

⁹ Wells and Dalton; Pitts, “Jails,” 2002:10-16; W. Buren Pitts, “In the Early Days Around Montross, Virginia—Did You Know That?,” September 2000:38. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross. *Northern Neck News*, March 31, 1911; *Northern Neck News* June 9, 1911; Street, 1942:6.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Over the years, the county clerk's office has been housed in several different buildings. In 1800, a clerk's office stood at the southwest corner of Route 3 and Court Square/Polk Street (Figure 3). That building was used by the clerk until about 1902, when the office was moved into the courthouse proper, and later housed in the wing extending from the back of the courthouse (added about 1962). The former clerk's building was then used as a drug store and in 1908 became the first home of the Bank of Montross. After the bank moved to a new location in 1926, the former clerk's office was demolished. R. Flynn Smallwood purchased the lot and built his automobile showroom there (263-5014, 15779 Kings Highway); the building later became a furniture store, which is discussed below.¹⁰

In addition to the support buildings for the courthouse, ordinaries, lodgings, and residences began to be part of the village landscape. In 1684, John Minor petitioned the court to keep an ordinary near the courthouse, "for the convenience of the Justices." Minor owned land near the courthouse that formerly had been owned



Figure 3. Clerk's Office, ca. 1909, with courthouse in the background. Source: Wilson.

by John Lord.¹¹ Although the petition does not indicate the exact location of the ordinary, local historians have long believed that Minor's ordinary was on the site of the present-day Inn at Montross (263-5037, 21 Polk Street), located west across the street from the former courthouse. Other histories suggest that the oldest section of the present inn, however, likely was part of the tavern operated by Thomas Spence whose landholdings extended west of the courthouse.¹² The current inn may incorporate eighteenth- or nineteenth-

¹⁰ Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County Court Houses," 2002:102-105.

¹¹ Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County Court Houses," 2002:4.

¹² Pitts' research of the deeds provides documentary evidence that the Minor property was south of the courthouse square and Spence's land extended west towards Chandler's Mill Pond. Minor emigrated from England to

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

century foundations and may have, at its core, a late-eighteenth-century or early-nineteenth-century remnant. In 1801, county order books record that Spence was granted a license for a tavern; Spence's land stood west of the courthouse, and in addition to a tavern, contained a storehouse, dwelling house, and outhouses.¹³ In 1977, construction for an addition to the inn located foundations believed to be part of the earlier ordinary. Archaeological site 44WM0043 contained artifacts dating from ca. 1675 to ca. 1899 (Figure 4). The present-day inn is a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-wide, frame building that stands on a brick foundation, is clad with weatherboard siding, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof with interior end chimneys. Five gable-roofed dormers pierce the front and rear slopes of the roof. The four-bay front porch, covered by a shed roof supported by Tuscan columns, faces southeast and holds the main entrance. The two end bays of the porch are enclosed. Windows on the building are six-over-six wooden sash. There is a two-and-one-half-story addition on the southwest end of the building and multiple additions on the rear (north) of the building. In 2012, owners of the inn received the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society's inaugural John Paul Hanbury Award "for the restoration of a property of historical and architectural interest."¹⁴



Figure 4. Former Spence's Tavern, now Inn at Montross, ca. 1908-1909. Source: Wilson.

Nineteenth-Century Development

Although stores, warehouses, taverns, and other commercial buildings were built in the courthouse village during the early-nineteenth century, few of those buildings remain standing. The exceptions are the three

Westmoreland County about 1660 and was an attorney and planter. Records suggest that he lived in the courthouse village area prior to its establishment as the county seat. See Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County Court Houses," 2002:6-9.

¹³ Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County Court Houses" 2002:24; Westmoreland County Order Book 1801-1804:171, October 1801; Westmoreland County Deed Book 20:367.

¹⁴ "Inn at Montross Receives John Paul Hanbury Award," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. LXII (2012): 7558.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

nineteenth-century dwellings located towards the ends of the historic district along Kings Highway and the one inn located near the courthouse (discussed above).

Mont Calm (263-0006, 15527 Kings Highway), constructed about 1810, is a notable Federal-era dwelling with later Victorian-era detailing. The oldest portion of the house is the two-story, side-passage section that is covered by a side-facing gable roof with paired interior end chimneys. The entrance is detailed with sidelights and a transom with diamond-shaped panes, and is sheltered beneath a two-bay, shed-roofed porch that features chamfered posts. The house, which is set back about 250 feet from the road on a heavily wooded 15-acre parcel, is of brick construction that has been painted. In 1878, a front-gable wing was added to the east end, creating a T-shaped plan. The one-story building used as a secondary dwelling located northwest behind the house originally may have been a kitchen.

The Brick House (263-0004, 15614 Kings Highway), constructed about 1820, reflects the symmetry and balance typical of the Federal style.¹⁵ The two-and-a-half-story dwelling, likely built by the Sisson family, is five-bays wide, stands on a raised basement, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof with slender interior end brick chimneys with corbelled caps. The full-width, hip-roofed front porch, a twentieth-century addition, shelters the centrally located entrance and features wooden column supports set atop brick piers. The eastern two bays of the porch are enclosed by jalousie windows. The entrance door is detailed with a rectangular transom and sidelights with wooden panels below. Reflective of its colloquial name, the house is of brick construction (painted) with the façade laid in a Flemish bond pattern and the sides and rear laid in three-course American bond. A two-story, gable-roofed, frame ell was added to the rear of the house in the late nineteenth century. The six-acre parcel, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Kings Highway and Lyells Street, also holds two early-twentieth-century garages and a ca.1920 frame shed. The ca. 1900 dentist office of Dr. George Mann, which stood at the northeast corner of the lot, has recently been relocated to a site on Carver Street. Mann purchased the property, then comprising 52 acres, in 1899. The office later served as a schoolroom and an apartment in the early twentieth century.¹⁶

The Hutt House (263-5036, 15943 Kings Highway), constructed about 1830 on a 10-acre parcel purchased from William R. Sisson, stands on the eastern end of the historic district. The house was built for William Hutt, who, at the time, was Clerk of Court for Westmoreland County. The house is set back almost 200 feet from the north side of Route 3 with a flat, open lawn at the front that holds several mature trees. The house began as a two-story, three-bay-wide, side-passage brick house with an exterior brick chimney on the northwest end. The one-pile house was enlarged prior to the mid-nineteenth century with an addition to the rear. A late-nineteenth-century, two-bay, weatherboard-clad addition to the southeast resulted in the present five-bay appearance. The house stands on a raised brick basement and is covered by a side-facing gable roof. The full-width, hip-roofed front porch is raised on brick piers and features wooden column supports with a wooden balustrade between them. Hutt's heirs continued to own the house and its reduced acreage until the late-twentieth century.¹⁷

¹⁵ Pitts suggests that the house was likely built by either William R. Sisson, who inherited the property from his father in 1804, or by Stephen D. Pitts, who purchased the property from Sisson in 1830. W. Buren Pitts, "Land Deeds and Records," January 2000:16-17. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross.

¹⁶ Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:17.

¹⁷ Thomas A. Wolf, ed., *Historic Sites in Virginia's Northern Neck & Essex County* (Warsaw, VA: Preservation Virginia, Northern Neck Branch, 2011), 89; Norris, 249; Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:46; Westmoreland County Deed Book 24:240.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

During the mid-nineteenth century, religious congregations organized in Montross and began to erect church buildings in town. County Court Order Books show that, until the mid-nineteenth century, religious congregations met in the courthouse. At the time, although several important Colonial-era churches stood in the county, there were no churches in the village of Westmoreland Court House. In 1849, the Westmoreland Court allowed trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States to erect a frame building on the north side of the court square.¹⁸ The frame church was consecrated in 1850 and the same year, the Virginia Diocese approved creation of the Montross Parish. By the late-nineteenth century, the church desired a new building. In 1884, the church trustees purchased a .5-acre parcel from James and Margaret Treacle of King George County that stood on the south side of Kings Highway east of the courthouse site.¹⁹

In 1889, the new church, known as St. James Episcopal Church (263-0002, 15870 Kings Highway) was consecrated. The present building is the same building, however, about 1950, the church was given a brick veneer cladding laid in a six-course Flemish bond variant (Figure 5). The tall, one-story Gothic Revival-style church is covered by a steeply-pitched front-facing gable roof with a cross-gable wing at the rear. A louvered belfry topped by a conical steeple stands atop the front gable end. Entry to the church is via the one-story, gable-roofed, brick-enclosed porch, centrally located on the front (northeast) end of the church. The entrance consists of double-leaf, paneled wooden doors set in a lancet arch; small lancet-arched stained-glass windows are present on both sides of the entry porch and a triangular-shaped window is present in the front gable end of the church. Side elevations hold four, one-over-one, double-hung, stained-glass windows. One of the stained-glass windows may predate the building.²⁰ A small, hexagonal-shaped, pyramidal-roofed turret stands at the northeast intersection of the church and the rear cross-gable wing. The turret holds a single, four-over-two lancet window on the front. A secondary entrance on the front of the rear wing is marked by a slightly projecting, gable-roofed entry bay, and consists of a pair of wide, wooden doors set within a trabeated opening. A wooden, diamond-pane casement window flanks the entry on the north. The gable-roofed “Ada Fairfax Chandler Memorial Parish House,” constructed about 1950 of similar materials and character, is attached to the east end of the rear wing. The parish hall was enlarged in 1988.

The church property adjoins the congregation’s cemetery of approximately 220 graves, that had been established in the 1840s, but also included the Sisson family graveyard, which was part of the land conveyance to the church. The oldest marked grave in the cemetery dates to 1847. In 2008, a brick wall was erected on the west end of the cemetery and church grounds.²¹

¹⁸ Westmoreland County Order Book 1844-1854:229, May 28, 1849.

¹⁹ Westmoreland County Deed Book 45:228. Pitts states that Treacle’s land was part of the old tavern site owned by John Minor.

²⁰ Josephine Carver, Personal Communication, November 21, 2022. Ms. Carver, an art historian, is presently conducting research on the designs and origin of the church windows.

²¹ Pitts, “In the Early Days Around Montross,” 2000:54. In the early 1800s, the Sisson family lived on the south side of present-day Route 3 across from the courthouse; they also operated a store at that site. “The Early History of St. James Church, Montross Parish, Westmoreland County,” [1953]. Brochure in collections of Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, Montross, VA; Pitts, “Land Deeds and Records,” January 2000:4-6.

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State



Figure 5. Historical postcard of St. James Episcopal Church, Montross, ca.1920. Source: Ebay.

About the same time that the St. James congregation was building near the court square (1849), the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, purchased parcels from Joseph S. Lyell and his son Charles to erect a frame church, known as Andrew Chapel (Figure 6).²² When the congregation decided to build a new church about 1890, they donated the lumber from the old building to the African-American congregation of the Siloam Baptist Church.²³ The 1890 Andrew Chapel sanctuary, which also was of frame construction, stood on the site until 1971, when the present brick Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church (263-5038-0054, 16340 Kings Highway) was erected at the site.²⁴ The tall one-story, three-by-five-bay church building is of brick construction, laid in a stretcher bond, and is covered by a front-facing gable roof with a tall, two-part, frame and copper steeple on the north end. The north end elevation holds a centrally located entrance flanked by arched, multi-paned, double-hung, wooden frame windows. The side elevations hold similar windows. The double-door entrance opening is detailed with a broken pediment surround. The wide, gable-roofed pedimented front entry porch features four Tuscan column supports. The 1950 Flemish-bond brick wing constructed at the rear of the frame church was retained and is accessed through the steepled bell tower added on the west end. The cemetery, located at the southeast corner of the property, is enclosed by

²² Westmoreland County Deed Book 32:465.

²³ Norris, 476; Arthur E. Carver III, Personal Communication, November 21, 2022; Siloam Baptist Church, "Church History," [ca. 2013]. Accessed from the Siloam Baptist Church website on November 23, 2022 at <https://siloambaptistchurch.org/church-history>.

²⁴ Norris, 486.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

a handsome brick wall with metal gates. Although the present church building dates to the late-twentieth century, the cemetery contains headstones dating from 1850.²⁵

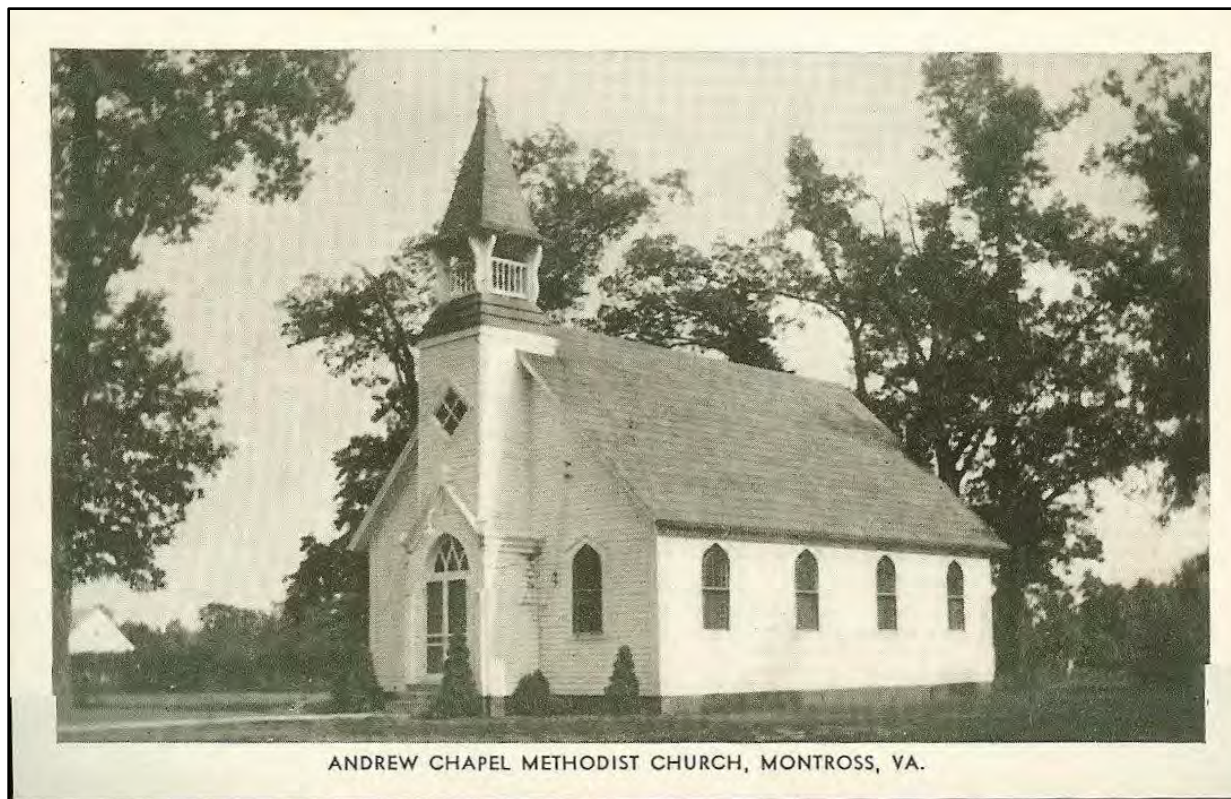


Figure 6. Historical postcard of Andrew Chapel Methodist Church, Montross, ca. 1920. Source: NNVHS.

Three surviving late-nineteenth-century frame dwellings in the historic district dating to 1880-1890 share a similar vernacular form (263-0007, 15238 Kings Highway; 263-0008, 15152 Kings Highway; and 263-5003, 15411 Kings Highway). They are two-story, frame dwellings with projecting gable end wings, resulting in T-shaped plans. The houses are clad with weatherboard, covered by intersecting gable roofs, and have interior brick chimneys located along the roof ridgeline. Window and door openings feature plain surrounds, the roof eaves are boxed, and porches are detailed with turned or plain wooden post supports. Although modest, these vernacular houses were built during the period of significance and retain sufficient architectural integrity to contribute to the historic district.

On February 17, 1852, the General Assembly passed an act to change the village name from Westmoreland Court House to "Montross."²⁶ Although eclipsed in development and commercial activity by the county's incorporated towns of Kinsale and Leedstown, which were located on the riverfronts, stores and small industries were built in Montross throughout the later-nineteenth century. Many of those buildings survived into the early twentieth century, but have since been lost to fires and later development.

²⁵ The 1762 grave of Elizabeth Thornton Nash is located in the cemetery, but predates the establishment of the church. The grave of William Hutt (1801-1850), who was serving as the clerk of the Westmoreland Court at the time of his death, is the second oldest recorded headstone in the Andrew Chapel UMC cemetery.

²⁶ *Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia: Passed in 1852, in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Commonwealth.* (Richmond: William F. Ritchie, Public Printer, 1852).

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Twentieth Century Development

The majority of the historic district's contributing historic resources date from the first-half of the twentieth century. Of the 58 primary resources that date to this period (excluding the courthouse), 20 are commercial buildings (automobile dealerships, service stations, garages, offices, and a theater), 35 are single dwellings, one is a museum, one is an industrial processing plant, and one is a school.

From the early to the mid-twentieth century, Montross grew with additional residential and commercial development. Route 3 remained the primary road through the county and town, and although a railroad line was planned to travel up the Northern Neck and through Montross, the project was halted with the onset of World War I.²⁷ Transportation, however, was an important factor in Montross's early-twentieth-century growth. Through the early twentieth century, reliance on steamboats for the movement of goods and people focused much commercial activity on the port towns and the large steamboat wharves on the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. In the late 1930s, freight steamers from Washington, D.C., and Baltimore serviced Westmoreland wharves and additional passenger boats brought summer tourists to the resort towns of Colonial Beach and Potomac Beach.²⁸

Road improvements begun in the mid-1930s, however, shifted the transport of goods and people away from the riverways. With paved and improved roadways, businesses began to rely on trucking for goods and services and an increase in private automobile ownership shifted the region's mode of transportation to the county roads, and especially to Route 3. Montross also became a major stopping point for tourists traveling along the Northern Neck and was a place they could find gasoline, food, and automobile service and repairs. At the time, Warsaw, the county seat of Richmond County and the next town along Route 3 (then known as Route 37), did not offer many amenities. As a result, Montross, in addition to its continued role as the center of the Westmoreland County government, became the location of several service stations, garages, auto repair shops, and automobile dealerships that serviced local business interests, the growing tourism industry, and county residents. As businesses proliferated, numerous dwellings were erected in town by shopkeepers and local businessmen, town and county officials, and lawyers who wished to be near the courthouse. Several of these properties included large acreage that, as the century progressed, were divided into smaller building lots. In 1946, Montross became an incorporated town.²⁹

Although brick construction was used in nineteenth-century buildings in Montross, much of the construction during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had been of frame construction. Brick, and later concrete block, construction became more prominent for commercial buildings during the twentieth century, while most dwellings continued to be of frame construction. Some frame buildings, such as St. James Episcopal Church, were given a veneer of brick cladding to present a more permanent appearance. Some commercial resources from the early-twentieth century, including service stations, reflect influence of the Colonial Revival or Classical Revival style. Other commercial buildings were designed in a vernacular form with parapeted roofs and broad glass storefronts. Early to mid-twentieth century dwellings were predominantly vernacular in form with Colonial Revival-style details applied. Vernacular dwellings such as bungalows, American Foursquare, and the regional L- and T-shaped dwellings appeared in

²⁷ Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:6; "Classified News of Construction Work: Railroad," in *The Contractor*, Volume XXII, No. 12 (December 15) 1915:41.

²⁸ James Lawrence Basil Williams, *An Economic and Social Survey of Westmoreland County* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia, 1936):69.

²⁹ Virginia's Legislative Information System, "Charters: Montross" [2022]. Accessed on the Division of Legislative Automated Systems website "Virginia's Legislative Information System" on November 28, 2022 at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/charters/montross/>.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Montross during the period. There are also examples of mail-order or “kit” houses in town, which were buildings that arrived precut and ready to assemble.

Court Square Development (Twentieth Century)

As described above, in 1900, B.F. Smith rebuilt the county courthouse, which was remodeled in 1936 to its present Colonial Revival-style appearance. The project was financed through public bonds and federal relief funds. In addition to providing a new heating system and restrooms, the courthouse’s architecture was revised to “be more in keeping with the period during which Westmoreland County furnished so many sons who distinguished themselves in the building of the government of this country.”³⁰ The project involved construction of a projecting, double-height entrance portico with fluted Doric columns on the east side of the building, which reoriented the courthouse towards the “main road” (Route 3) (Figure 7).³¹ The hipped-roof configuration was retained, but may have been raised or otherwise altered since a new wide frieze board and a dentiled cornice were added. Window openings, which presently hold nine-over-nine, double-hung, wooden-sash windows, were refitted with jack-arched lintels and stone sills, but the openings on the rear (north) and end elevations retain double-row segmentally arched lintels. The original entrance, reduced to a secondary entrance, presently consists of a glazed wooden door with a fanlight transom set within a pedimented surround with fluted pilasters. In 1962, Richmond-based architect Clarence W. Huff, Jr., designed the one-story, gable-roofed wing at the rear of the building, which housed the clerk’s office. The wing matched the main courthouse in materials and style.³² Standing northeast of the courthouse within the court square is a one-story, pyramidal roofed, brick pump house, dating to about 1900, which was remodeled by Huff in the 1960s. In 2014, court functions were moved to a new courthouse built to the northwest on Polk Street; the former courthouse presently houses offices and collections of the Westmoreland County Museum.

The green that fronts the courthouse on the south side is lightly landscaped with mature trees and shrubs. Metal benches are present along the edges of the green and a metal flagpole stands at the eastern front corner. In addition to a Virginia Historical Highway Marker (J-71, “Old Westmoreland Courthouse”), the green also holds three military memorials. The 1876 Westmoreland County Confederate Memorial (263-0001-0001) is one of the earliest such monuments erected in the state.³³ The 30-foot-tall marble monument, completed by Bevan & Sons, stonecutters of Baltimore, is composed of a stepped base supporting a plinth, dado, shaft, and cap. Originally, the monument stood where the Westmoreland County Museum is located on Polk Street; it was moved to its present location about 1930.³⁴ The other monuments, both erected in 1982, honor those who served in the two World Wars and Korea, known as the Veterans Memorial (263-0001-0003) and erected by American Legion Post #252, and Westmoreland soldiers who served and died in the Vietnam War (263-0001-0002), erected by the Westmoreland Ruritan Club.³⁵

³⁰ Pitts, “Early Westmoreland County Court Houses,” August 2002:90; Westmoreland County Order Book, March 1936.

³¹ Elwood Street, “Westmoreland The Home of Great Americans!,” reprint from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in the *Northern Neck News*, May 22, 1942:6.

³² Pitts, “Early Westmoreland County Court Houses,” August 2002:100; “County Approves New Bond Issue,” *Northern Neck News*, May 1, 1936:1.

³³ The earliest Confederate monuments in Virginia were erected in the Northern Neck counties of Lancaster (1872) and Northumberland (1873).

³⁴ Pitts, “Land Deeds and Records,” 2000:206.

³⁵ The inscription on the Veterans Memorial notes that evergreen trees planted on the square are part of the memorial.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State



Figure 7. Westmoreland Courthouse after 1936 renovations, Stuart Law office visible to the right, Confederate monument as moved to court green, and Carver's worker housing in right background. Source: NNVHS.

The area adjacent to the courthouse changed during the early-twentieth century as the county sold off three lots on the northeast side of the court square that historically were part of the “public bounds.” In 1923, the county sold Lot 1 to Albert Stuart, who was the clerk of the court. Stuart and Richard H. Harris later built a store on the lot. When the store moved its operations to a building on Kings Highway, the old building on Lot 1 was used as a Western Auto, then a home appliance store, and a library. The building, which can be seen in historical photographs, was torn down in the late 1990s.³⁶

In 1922, Lot 2 on Court Square was sold to the trustees of the People’s Bank of Montross, which had been chartered in 1913 and previously occupied a building at the corner of Route 3 and Rectory Road.³⁷ In the 1840s, the congregation of St. James Episcopal Church had erected a building on the lot; the congregation remained there until 1888. A Baptist congregation used the church for several years thereafter, and then it was used as a “social hall.”³⁸ The People’s Bank of Montross (263-5031, 105 Court Square), completed in 1924, replaced the church building on this lot. It is one story in height and three-bays wide. The front wall is laid in a header bond, while the rear and sides are laid in stretcher bond. The façade is distinguished by a temple-front consisting of four engaged pilasters and a multi-stepped cornice. The centrally located entrance is further embellished by a pedimented surround; the deeply set flanking window openings feature rowlock sills and lintels with inset panels above. A stepped parapet with terra cotta coping extends above the cornice and around the sides of the building. The side elevations are distinguished by building bays with corbelled surrounds and pairs of double-sash windows. Decorative bands of soldier and header bricks and

³⁶ Pitts, “In the Early Days Around Montross,” 2000:38.

³⁷ Pitts, “Land Deeds and Records,” 2000:73.

³⁸ Pitts, “In the Early Days Around Montross,” 2000:40.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

a corbelled cornice extend along the side elevations, as well. A two-bay-deep addition extended the building on the rear; another small, flat-roofed brick addition on the rear corner of the building is identified on plats as the “telephone building,” which accommodated phone service in the area. After the bank moved in the late 1960s, the building on Court Square housed the county newspaper, *Westmoreland News*. Presently, it is once again owned by the county and serves as the voter registration office.³⁹

The former law office of Charles E. Stuart (263-0003, 99 Court Square), built about 1930, stands on Lot 3 on Court Square and west of the former bank building. It is a one-story brick building (six-course American bond) featuring pedimented gable ends with brick tympanums; a lunette window is centrally located in the front tympanum. A plain wooden cornice encircles the building. Replacement double-hung sash windows are set within punched openings with brick sills. An interior brick chimney projects from the northeast end of the roof and a lower, one-story, frame addition extends from the rear of the building. Originally, the entrance was on the front (southwest) end of the building, but was later moved to the northwest side; this alteration, which resulted in the installation of a centrally located window on the front end of the building, is indicated by a visible change in the masonry wall. The relocated opening presently holds a replacement metal door, and the trace of the former entry porch is visible on the exterior brick wall. The colonnaded, one-story wing on the northwest side of the building, a later addition, stands on a concrete slab foundation, is clad with brick on the front and north end and vinyl siding on the rear, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof. Three wooden doors on the front of the wing open onto the colonnade. In the 1950s, after Stuart’s death, his heirs sold the building to the county. It has housed the treasurer’s office, the sheriff’s office, and presently holds public restrooms.⁴⁰

Service Stations, Garages, and Dealerships

Several early-twentieth-century resources in the historic district are related to transportation—service stations, garages, and automobile dealerships—and reflect Montross’ emergence as a regional transportation center during that period. The Smallwood Motor Company building (263-5014, 15779 Kings Highway), constructed in 1927, stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of Route 3 and Polk Street and is a highly intact example of an automobile showroom/garage. R. Flynn Smallwood built the two-story brick building on the site of the former county clerk’s office described above. The exterior brick walls of the building (seven-course American bond) have been painted, but retain decorative courses of brickwork, including a soldier-course stringcourse on the front and side elevations, cornice-level banding, and a distinctive stepped parapet wall around the front and side elevations. The front end of the parapet features a recessed signage panel. The centrally located front entrance holds a single-leaf door with a two-light transom above. A row of three wide, wooden-frame display windows with multi-light transoms flank the entrance to either side. Similar display windows are present in the first two bays of the building’s side elevations. Openings on the second-floor level on the front and sides of the building hold two-over-two wooden sash windows. The openings are detailed with brick rowlock sills and soldier course lintels.

Smallwood operated the motor company through the Great Depression, selling cars made by Ford, Essex, and Crosley. The well-lit, carefully finished showroom occupied the front two-fifths of the building and an open, unfinished garage filled the remainder. Automobiles entered the building through garage doors in the rear of the north wall. Originally, a door near the center of the main partition probably allowed cars through the garage into the showroom. The concrete apron in front of the building served as a filling station. A

³⁹ Pitts, “Early Westmoreland County Court House,” 2002:112; Westmoreland County Deed Book 82:309; Norris, 693.

⁴⁰ Pitts, “Early Westmoreland County Court House,” 2022:111, 113.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

canopy supported by tapered brick piers and topped by a decorative railing extended out to cover cars as their tanks were filled. This canopy was removed in the mid-twentieth century (Figure 8).

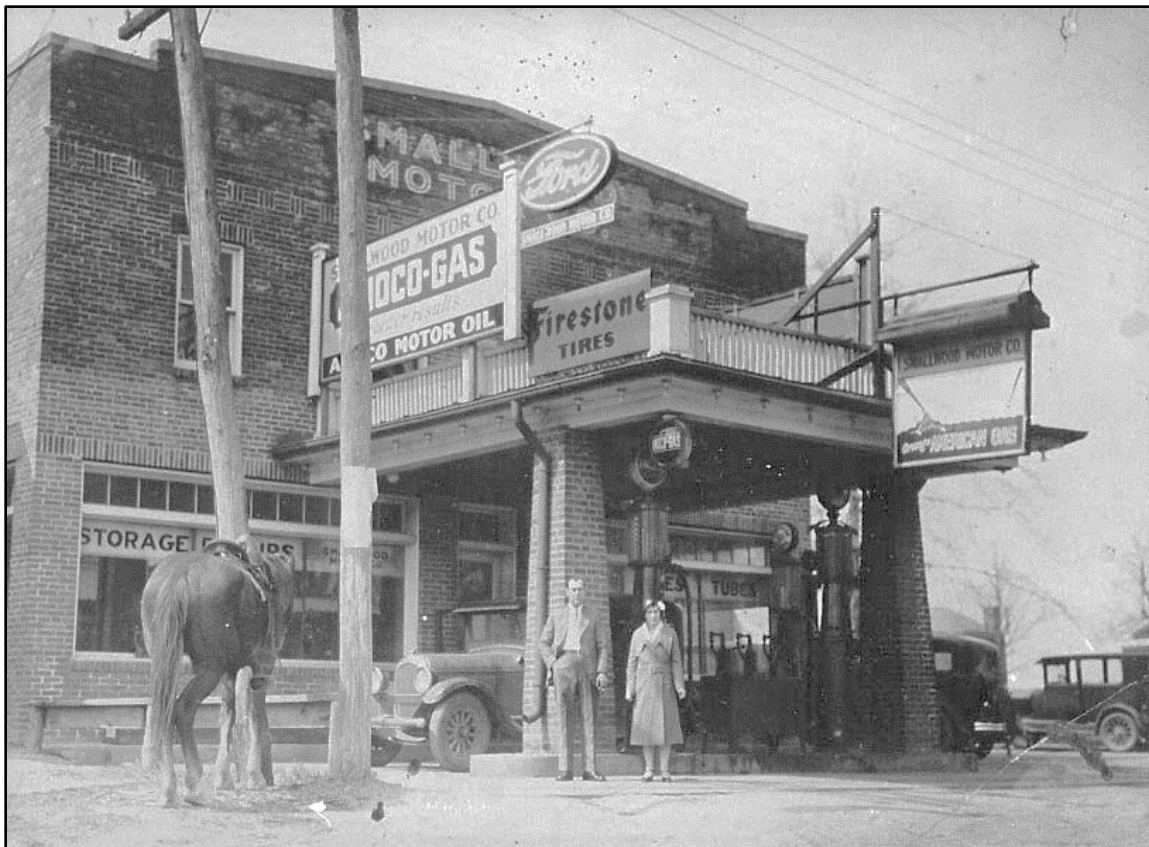


Figure 8. Smallwood Motor Co. building that replaced earlier clerk's office, ca. 1927. Source: Orville Ingram.

In 1944, Smallwood built a garage further west along Route 3 and sold his building near the courthouse that was then operated as a drugstore. By 1951, the Montross Furniture Company (later, the Wakefield Furniture Store), a dealer for Philco appliances and televisions, occupied the building and remained there until 2009. The building is a good example of an early transportation-related resource constructed in Montross during the expansion of commerce and industry in the interwar years and reflects the practice of changing uses of such buildings. At present, the building is an annex to the Westmoreland County Museum.⁴¹

In 1948, L.E. Westmoreland built his Ford dealership (263-5038-0092, 15115 Kings Highway), which he operated as "Westmoreland Ford," between the movie theater and the present site of the electrical substation (Figure 9). The one-story, five-bay, concrete block building stands on a concrete slab foundation and is covered by a shed roof with a mansard-style awning wrapping around the front and sides. The metal-and-glass entrance door, located on the southwest angled corner of the building, is detailed with an applied

⁴¹ Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:30-31; "The Montross Furniture Company, Located in the Littlefield Building in Montross, Virginia," *The Potomac Interest* [Colonial Beach, VA], March 29, 1951; Gibson Worsham, "Smallwood Motor Company/Wakefield Building," Preliminary Information Form, 2011. Copy on file, Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, VA.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

broken pediment surround. The south (front) elevation consists of two bays of fixed (replacement) windows and two bays of overhead garage bay doors. The dealership remained in the building until about 1950, then housed a tire recapping facility, and later a building supply company.⁴² At present, the building is vacant, but retains architectural reminders of its original use.

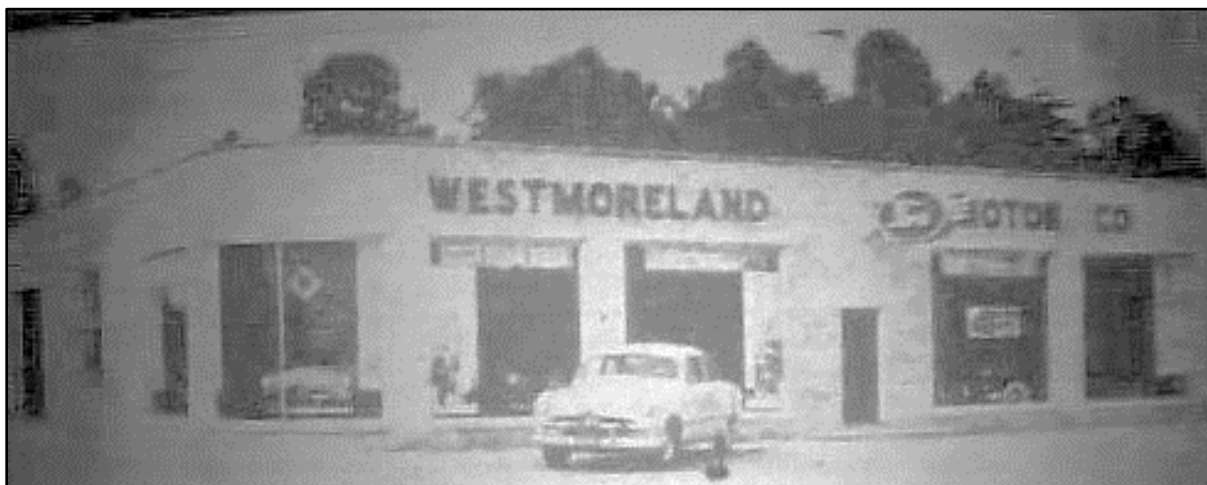


Figure 9. Westmoreland Motor Co., ca. 1950. Source: Orville Ingram.

In the 1940s and into the 1950s, the western end of Montross had two Esso service stations, an Amoco station, and a Texaco station. About 1950, the one-story, frame Amoco station at the corner of Route 3 and Rectory Road was replaced by the Montross Atlantic service station (263-5038-0046, 15722 Kings Highway).⁴³ Since 2006, the building has housed a café and art gallery known as The Art of Coffee. The station is a one-story, five-bay-wide, painted concrete block structure that is covered by a hipped roof clad with metal. Entrance to the building is through a single-leaf, wood-and-glass door located in the former west end office wing. Large, fixed plate-glass windows extend around the office wing, which retains its concrete walkway and exterior restroom doors. East of the office is the former garage, which is distinguished by the three multi-pane, metal-framed overhead doors that replicate the appearance of the original garage doors accessing the repair bays. A one-story, full-length, shed-roofed open porch supported by wooden posts stretches across the front of the three bays and shelters an outdoor seating area. The three-bay east side elevation holds metal-frame, 12-pane windows, the middle panes of which are movable awning windows. The Montross Repair Shop (263-5038-0047, 34 Rectory Road), built about the same time as the station, stands south behind the former service station. The one-story, concrete block building holds a centrally located entrance and metal-frame industrial windows (similar to those on the service station) on the front (east) elevation and five overhead garage doors on the north side elevation. The building continues to be used as an auto repair shop.

⁴² Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:11.

⁴³ The Goodridge house, a two-story, Colonial Revival dwelling (ca. 1918), was moved from this corner site around 1948 when the property was sold to the People's Bank of Montross and subdivided. Elizabeth Walker Burruss, "I Can Remember" in *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. XIX (Dec) 1969:1930. Mrs. Burruss recalled that Mr. Goodridge kept the post office in a "little one room house on the corner of the yard," which is also mentioned in Pitts "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:20. The Goodridge house was moved to a lot further south on Rectory Road and later, Norris Lowery, the owner of People's Drug Store, lived there.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

The former Texaco station (263-5010, 15692 Kings Highway), operated as Smallwood Motor's Pontiac dealership in the 1940s, has been repurposed as tax offices and the current offices of the *Westmoreland News*. The one-story, three-bay-wide, brick-clad building retains its original footprint and flat roof with a straight parapet. The centrally located entrance, accessed by the original two-sided concrete stairs, is flanked by wide, two-pane fixed windows. Although slightly altered, the façade retains much of its original appearance. The rear concrete block wing formerly held the work bays for the garage.

Automobile facilities also were built on the east end of town. Campbell's Auto Sales (263-5025, 16419 Kings Highway), built about 1938 at the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 3 and Porter Lane originally housed William Sanford's Ford agency, which went out of business shortly before World War II. Other businesses occupied the building, and it later became a used car lot operated by Sherwood Campbell.⁴⁴ Although modest, Campbell's is the best example of commercial Art Deco architecture in the historic district. The one-story, four-bay-wide, painted brick building is covered by a flat roof detailed with a flat parapet with terra cotta coping. Stacked corner pilasters rise above the parapet and the elevations are further delineated by smooth concrete spandrels and recessed bays. A concrete pilaster divides the front façade into a three-bay section on the west, which holds the entrance, and a one-bay section on the east. Overhead garage doors are present on the side elevations. Although alterations have been made to the window and door openings, this building retains much of its historical appearance.

Other Commercial Buildings

The one-story frame building located at 15852 Kings Highway (263-5017) and historically known as Jackson's Tea Room was built about 1929. Standing on the south side of Route 3 between the sharp bend in the road on the west and St. James Episcopal Church on the east, this frame domestic building, clad with weatherboard and covered by a clipped gable roof, holds a centrally located entrance on the front (north) flanked by pairs of six-over-six replacement windows. A clipped-gable-roofed ell projects from the rear of the building. The building, which retains good overall integrity, was constructed as a dwelling, operated as a tea room serving light meals for many years by the Jackson family, and has since been re-used as law offices and presently houses a salon.⁴⁵

Two buildings located on the north side of the sharp turn on Route 3 near the courthouse have housed several different businesses and are representative of the commercial style buildings constructed in Montross between the 1940s and 1950s. The two-story brick-clad building at 15829 King's Highway (263-5038-0072) was constructed about 1946 by three Montross businessmen: G.H. Beane, A.E. Carver, and John W. Hennage. The building, known as the B, C & H Building, originally housed a restaurant on the first floor and the county's health department offices on the upper floor, where public health nurse Ruth Ellen "Sally" Brownley (of Sandy Point) ran the clinic that provided care for all county residents, regardless of race.⁴⁶ The restaurant, operated by Mr. Sanford who was an undertaker in the county, reflected the racially segregated business practices of the by serving White customers on the first floor, but requiring Black customers to descend the stairs at the front of the building for service in the basement level.⁴⁷ The concrete block building is clad with brick on the façade and is covered by a flat roof with a stepped parapet front wall.

⁴⁴ Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:55, 57.

⁴⁵ Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:26.

⁴⁶ Regina Gaskins Baylor, Personal Communication, December 1, 2022.

⁴⁷ Arthur E. Carver III, Personal Communication, November 21, 2022; Pitts "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:41-42.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

The one-story, brick building next to the B, C & H Building, 15835 Kings Highway (263-5038-0071) that presently houses Angelo's Restaurant and Raw Bar was constructed around 1930 and in the mid-twentieth century was the home of Herndon's Grocery Store.⁴⁸ The building's front elevation holds two storefront entrances featuring single leaf doors, plate glass windows, and fixed transoms. A stepped parapet wall on the elevation obscures the metal-clad, front-facing gable roof that covers the building.

Several twentieth-century commercial buildings stand on Kings Highway across from the courthouse. About 1955, Virginia Harris Clapp built the flat-roofed store at 15786 Kings Highway (263-5038-0050), which historically was known as the Harris Variety Store.⁴⁹ The front elevation of the one-story masonry building is framed by a tall parapet surround with an inset signage panel. The storefront consists of a centrally located pair of glass doors flanked by full-height, plate glass windows. The commercial building at 15764 Kings Highway (263-5038-0049), which currently houses a florist and antiques business, was the second location for the Peoples Drug Store, an important amenity for the town and surrounding rural communities. Walter Norris Lowery owned and operated the store, which he founded in 1934.⁵⁰ He moved the drugstore from a frame building (no longer standing) to this building in 1950; it is a one-story, two-bay, commercial building that has been modified in recent years (Figure 10).



Figure 10. First Peoples Drug to left (now demolished) and second home to drug store at right (vacant in this photo), early 2000s. Source: WCM.

⁴⁸ Arthur E. Carver III, Personal Communication, November 21, 2022; Regina Gaskin Baylor, Personal Communication, December 1, 2022.

⁴⁹ Josephine Carver, Personal Communication, November 2, 2022. The Harris family also operated the two-story, frame grocery store that formerly stood west of the department store and an earlier (1930s) store on Lot 1 of the public bounds north of the courthouse. Ms. Carver describes it as an "old-fashioned store." Ms. Carver, who worked in Virginia Clapp's store, recalls that the advertising motto for the shop was "From here to Paris, you can't beat Harris."

⁵⁰ "Walter Norris Lowery," Obituary, *Rappahannock Record*, July 17, 1986:23.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

The brick-clad front elevation (north) holds two separate storefront entrances, each with a centrally located door flanked by large plate-glass windows. The front walkway that extends across the full-width of the building is sheltered beneath a metal-clad shed roof supported by square brick posts. Brick pilasters delineate the five bays of the stucco-clad side elevations. The building is covered by a metal-clad front-facing gable roof with an overhang at the rear that shelters the delivery area. In 1989, the drugstore moved to another building (15722 Kings Highway) under the ownership of Lowery's daughter and her husband, Margaret "Peggy" and Robert Burner. In 2001, the Burners sold the drugstore, which is well-remembered for its lunch counter and fountain service. The business closed in the early twenty-first century after nearly 70 years in operation.

Unique among the commercial buildings in Montross is the large movie theater built on the west end of town in 1947. George Clanton, who also owned the DAW Theatre in Tappahannock, owned and operated the Montross Theatre (263-5001, 15075 Kings Highway), which was in business into the late 1960s. The building, one of the first substantial commercial buildings encountered as Route 3 enters the Town of Montross from the west, is a two-and-a-half-story, three-by-five-bay masonry building constructed of concrete block and faced on the front with red brick. The building is covered by a front-facing gable roof. Double-height concrete block pilasters rise along the side elevations. The front elevation, facing south, has been altered and several of the original openings have been filled with brick. The center building bay is slightly recessed from the end bay and holds the main entrance on the ground floor, which was formerly enhanced by a modest marquee. A pair of replacement doors on the upper (mezzanine) level are set in an original opening that likely provided access for equipment for stage shows and other events. The upper level of the elevation features octagonal window openings in the end bays and a rectangular opening at the center that holds a metal-frame, four-pane window. A one-story, metal-clad wing stands at the rear of the building and a shed-roofed wing extends from the east end. Reflecting the period of racial segregation in most public facilities, the theatre offered 450 seats on the main floor for White patrons and a side entrance for Black patrons that led to 150 seats in the balcony. The DAW Theatre also had a segregated entrance and seating.⁵¹ The theatre was used for lectures and traveling shows, as well as for commencement exercises for students at the Washington and Lee High School. The theatre was said to be "exactly like" the DAW Theatre, but with a different front elevation.⁵²

Late twentieth-century commercial buildings tend to be executed in the Colonial Revival style or are examples of vernacular/commercial forms with limited detailing. A notable example is the former Bank of Montross (263-5038-0051) located at 15960 Kings Highway that was built in 1965 and designed by architect Horace G. Freeman. The bank exhibits details of the Colonial Revival-style and upon its completion, was presented with the Westmoreland County Garden Club's award for superior architectural design.⁵³ A few Montross buildings also show influence of the Modernist style. The building at 15544 Kings Highway (263-5038-0041), built about 1940, housed Ira S. Mothershead's tractor dealership. In the late 1940s, Mr. Mothershead sold Farmall tractors, International Trucks, and Plymouth and Desoto automobiles. The building, which presently houses a laundromat, retains its flat roof and the wide, stucco-

⁵¹ Regina Gaskin Baylor, Personal Communication, December 1, 2022.

⁵² "New Montross Theatre Will Be Open Soon," *Rappahannock Record*, May 22, 1947. The DAW Theatre, (310-0024-0024, 154 Prince Street, Tappahannock) is a two-story, brick building constructed about 1930 and operated as the Essex Theater. In 1939, new owners hired Richmond architect Edward F. Sinnott to remodel the theater, resulting in its Colonial Revival appearance featuring a projecting wooden marquee with a broken pediment end, a wide cornice, and parapet wall on the front. Since Clanton was owner of both the DAW and the Montross Theater, it may be presumed that Sinnott had a hand in the design of the Montross building.

⁵³ Norris, 642.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

clad pier that rises along the front elevation and piercing the deeply overhanging roof eave. The pier once held signage for the dealership. The building is striking for its contrasting horizontal and vertical elements.

Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.

Although several industrial properties historically have been located in Montross, including grist mills, a tanyard, and a carriage building factory, only one industrial building from the period of significance is extant. In 1920, the Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., was founded with plants at McGuire's Wharf on the Potomac River and in Kilmarnock, Lancaster County. In 1923, the company, led by Montross resident Arthur E. Carver, Sr., moved its operations from McGuire's Wharf to Montross, where it was first housed in a one-story, frame building on Route 3 west of Smallwood's garage. In 1928, the Kilmarnock operations also were moved to Montross. The Northern Neck Coca-Cola plant in Montross (263-5011, 15725 Kings Highway) produced Coca-Cola and other flavored drinks, including a ginger ale known later as "Northern Neck Ginger Ale," using Carver's own recipe.

In 1932, the Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., opened the impressive, two-story, brick building on the north side of Route 3 and west of the courthouse. As part of The Coca-Cola Company's effort to standardize all elements of its business in the 1920s, the new bottling plant was built using the "Standard Plant No. 3" design by the Atlanta-based architectural firm of Pringle & Smith.⁵⁴ Francis Palmer Smith, the primary designer in the firm, trained under Paul Philippe Cret at the University of Pennsylvania and was head of architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology between 1909 and 1922. He then formed a firm with Robert S. Pringle. The firm's model designs for the bottling plants were "part of the effort to make sure potential consumers immediately recognized the [Coca-Cola] company's products, including the buildings that produced the bottled drinks. Francis Smith intended the building designs for Coca-Cola to create distinctive forms on the landscape" and for the buildings to be sited in a prominent position within the localities in which they were erected.⁵⁵ The Standard Plant No. 3 design reflected Smith's Beaux-Art training in its proportion, scale, balance, and detailing (Figures 11 and 12).

The Montross bottling plant, which retains good integrity, is executed in red brick (stretcher bond) with a soldier course stringcourse and is covered by a terra cotta-tile-clad hipped roof with a modillioned cornice. Bas relief panels depicting 6-ounce Coke bottles and the company's cursive logo are present on the front and west side elevations, and the centrally located entrance is detailed with an elaborate rusticated architrave surround. The entrance is flanked on the west by an advertising mural that was added in 1999 to cover the two original plate glass windows, that permitted too much sunlight into the bottling room and caused overheating. In the bays east of the entrance are a pair of replacement windows with lower awning panes. Similar windows are present in the four second-floor openings on the façade and in the openings on the side elevations. The company's success resulted in numerous additions to the Montross plant over the years. In 1948, the company built a two-story addition and added a garage and storage building in 1949. In 1962, an 80-foot-by-98-foot addition was constructed to the east side of the factory to boost production space, and in 1973 another large addition was built to the rear (north end) of the plant's warehouse. The plant, which ended operation as the Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., in 2001, is significant for its association with Montross' industrial history, and is one of a handful of Coca-Cola bottling plants of the

⁵⁴ "The Architecture of Refreshment," [2022]. Accessed online at The Martin Guide to Vintage Coca-Cola Memorabilia 1886-1969 on October 10, 2022 at <https://www.earlycoke.com/architecture-of-refreshment>.

⁵⁵ Robert M. Craig, "Beaux-Arts meets Southern Industry: The Coca-Cola Bottling Plants of Francis Palmer Smith," *Arris*, Vol. 12 (2001):92-106; Robert Craig, "Francis Palmer Smith," *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. Originally published July 31, 2002. Last modified May 13, 2016. Accessed online at the New Georgia Encyclopedia website on November 17, 2022 at <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/francis-palmer-smith-1886-1971/>.

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State



Figure 11. Rendering of Standard Plant No. 3 from the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Standards of 1929.
Source: *The Architecture of Refreshment*.

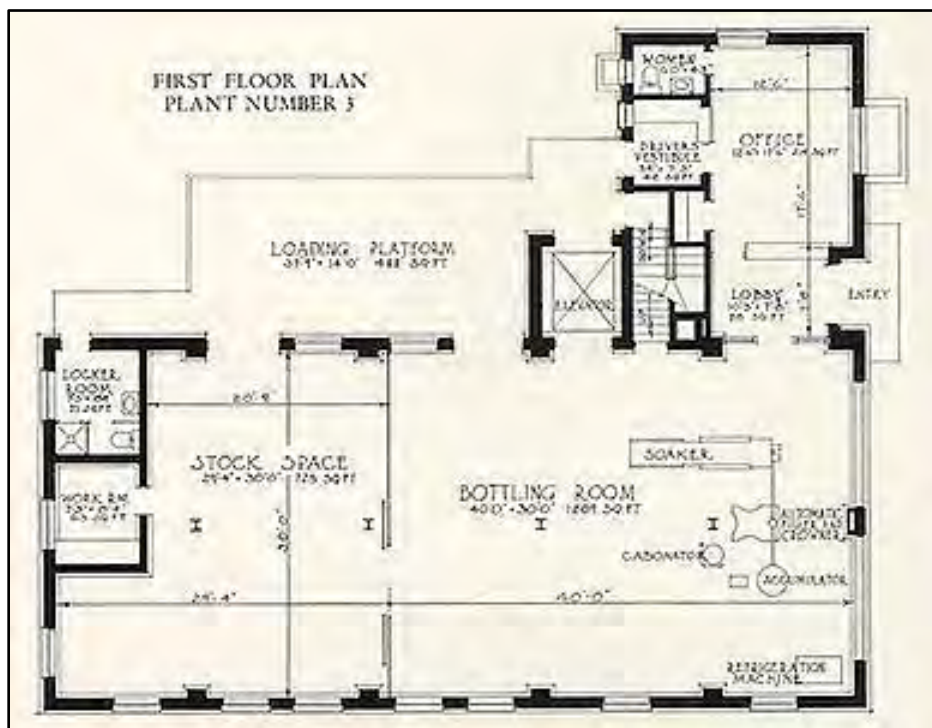


Figure 12. First Floor Plan, Standard Plant No. 3, from the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Standards of 1929.
Source: *The Architecture of Refreshment*.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

period in Virginia. As is typical with many of the Coca-Cola buildings built in small towns, the architectural design and quality of the Montross plant makes it a well-known local landmark.

In 1934, Mr. Carver, who was involved in numerous local business enterprises, built a Colonial Revival-style Esso service station, known as Carver's Colonial Station (263-5012, 15739 Kings Highway), on the lot east of the bottling plant. The building presently houses an accounting service and retains much of its historical appearance. Designed by Richmond-based architect Clarence W. Huff, Jr., the one-story, three-bay-wide frame, domestic-scaled building features a centrally located entrance flanked by six-over-nine wooden sash windows with louvred shutters.⁵⁶ The building is clad with weatherboard siding and is covered by a side-facing gable roof with large modillion blocks and three gable-roofed dormers on the front. The most striking features of the building are the two exterior end chimneys that are laid in a Flemish bond with tiled double shoulders and are topped by corbelled caps. A one-story garage wing extends from the rear of the building and, at present, connects to a rear wing of the bottling plant building. A paved parking area now occupies the space where the gas pumps formerly stood at the front of the building (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Montross Esso Station, Carver's Colonial Station, built for A.E. Carver, ca. 1935.

Photo shows station ca. 1953. Source: WCM.

⁵⁶ Arthur E. Carver III, Personal Communication, February 16, 2023. Mr. Carver holds four pages of blueprints titled "Garage For Mr. A. E. Carver, Montross, VA, C. W. Huff, Jr. Architect, Richmond, VA, Dec. 1934."

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

School

Historical records indicate that there was a school in Montross in the 1880s.⁵⁷ In 1907, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported that “the public school at Montross” had burned. That school was quickly replaced by a two-story, frame school that stood on the south side of Route 3 east of Andrew Chapel Methodist Church (possibly the same site as the earlier school) and was known as “Montross School.” That building burned in 1919 and a new two-story, frame school was built, which burned in 1930. Finally, the town built a brick school building. In 1930, the first part of the Washington and Lee High School was built at the same school site with additions built to it in 1940, 1970, and 1998.⁵⁸ Built during the period of racially segregated schools, the high school was for White students only. The original section of the school (263-5024, 16380 Kings Highway) is the one-and-a-half-story, brick section fronting onto Route 3 (Figure 14). The building features a centrally located, recessed entry porch that is detailed with a slightly projecting, brick pedimented surround and an arched opening. Sets of three six-over-six windows flank the opening. The school is covered by a metal-clad, side-facing gable roof with three hip-roofed front dormers and flat parapet end walls with engaged chimneys. Lower one-story, gable-roofed wings extend from the ends of the building. A wide, molded cornice unites the three sections.



Figure 14. Montross School, 1931. Part of a collection of photographs of state operated elementary and secondary schools from the School Buildings Service of the Virginia, Department of Education.
Source: School Buildings Service Photographs Collection, Library of Virginia, VA.

⁵⁷ Burruss, 1930. Mrs. Burruss stated that in 1881, “a one room schoolhouse was built in the corner of the Windsor field and school was opened here that Fall.”

⁵⁸ “Montross School Burns,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, April 5, 1907; Norris, 517; Rob Hedelt, “Anticipation is high for new Washington and Lee School,” *The Free Lance Star* August 24, 2019. Accessed online at *The Free Lance Star* website on October 2, 2022 at https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/rob-hedelt-anticipation-is-high-for-new-washington-and-lee-school/article_f40d16d7-6ca3-5581-9363-624f40566379.html

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

The end walls of the side wings are detailed with brick diapering. The original school had ten classrooms, a library, and combination auditorium/gymnasium space; additions were constructed to the rear of the building. Julian Parker was the contractor for the project and John W. Hennage of Montross was the builder.⁵⁹ In 2022, a new high school, known as Westmoreland High School, opened on a site east of the old school. Plans are underway to repurpose the historic building.

Social and Government Buildings

During the early-twentieth century, several buildings were built in Montross that are related to the town's cultural and social history. In 1938, a committee of the Trustees of the Henry Hungerford Library asked permission from the county Board of Supervisors to erect a public library on land within the public bounds.⁶⁰ The county agreed to the endeavor, and the Westmoreland County Museum and Public Library (263-5038-0074, 43 Polk Street) was built west of the courthouse across Polk Street and south of the Inn at Montross. The one-story, five-bay-wide, brick building, designed by Richmond-based architect Clarence W. Huff, Jr., is domestic in scale and was designed as "an authentic reproduction of eighteenth-century architecture." John W. Hennage served as builder for the project. The museum's brickwork includes Flemish bond exterior walls, a sloped water table, exterior end double-shouldered and corbelled chimneys, and jack arches above the window and door openings. The slate-clad, side-facing gable roof holds five gable-roofed dormers on the front and the eave is detailed with large modillion blocks. In addition to providing a permanent home for the Hungerford library collection and the museum's artifacts and art, which include the life-sized portrait of British Member of Parliament and colonial supporter, William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham (1768), painted by American artist Charles Willson Peale, the building offered public meeting rooms and spaces to be used by the county administrative staff and other civic and social groups. During World War II, the Red Cross used rooms in the building for local activities.

The museum lot was further enhanced by the brick-walled "Virginia Presidents' Garden," designed by noted Richmond landscape architect Charles Freeman Gillette, who donated his services for the project. Completed as a project of the Westmoreland County Garden Club, the garden features a central parterre divided and surrounded by brick walkways with side beds planted with crape myrtles, boxwoods grown from cuttings from Ash Lawn-Highland (home of James Monroe), ivy from Mount Vernon and Monticello, and other plant materials that were donated by the garden club members and local residents. Italian-American sculptor Attilio Piccirilli, known for his busts of Jefferson (after Houdon) and Monroe in the Capitol Rotunda in Richmond, created the three busts of the U.S. presidents born in Westmoreland County (Washington, Monroe, and Madison) that sit atop tall brick piers on the sides of the garden. A sundial with the names of the other five Virginian-born presidents stands at the center of the garden. In 1943, the garden project won an Award of Merit from the National Council of Garden Clubs.⁶¹ The presence of the museum and its garden are important and attractive additions to the court square environment. The garden and its statues tie the history of Westmoreland County to larger history of Virginia and the United States. The museum, garden, and sculptures produced by regionally and nationally known designers raise the

⁵⁹ Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:53.

⁶⁰ According to a newspaper article, Mollie Hungerford gave her father's personal library to the Town of Montross. In 1931, Henry's daughter Ella J. Barnard donated \$10,000 to the trustees for a library building. Several other personal libraries were later donated to the collection. *Richmond News Leader* June 21, 1948.

⁶¹ George C. Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette & Landscape Architecture in Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992), 150; "Virginia Presidents' Garden Wins National Award," *Rappahannock Record*, May 20, 1943:1; Joyce P. Hobbs, Chairman, Presidents' Garden Committee of the Westmoreland Garden Club, Presentation made to the Friends of the Museum, May 4, 2008, at Montross. Transcript provided by the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross, VA.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

architectural significance of this property and are important contributions to the significance and integrity of the historic district.

In 1900, several prominent citizens formed the Montross Town Hall Association for the purpose of erecting a town hall that could serve as a social center, meeting place, and event site. The first town hall was a frame building on the south side of Kings Highway next to the 1926 Bank of Montross building at the southeast corner of the sharp bend in Route 3.⁶² In 1977, the town hall moved into the brick bank building, which had been vacated when the bank relocated to a new building further east on Route 3. Around 2000, the town sold that building, which was demolished as part of a road improvement project, and constructed its present town hall building at 15869 Kings Highway (263-5038-0068). Due to its construction date, the town hall is a non-contributing resource in the historic district, but is associated with the historical theme of government and politics. The one-story, frame building is covered by a pedimented front-facing gable roof that projects over the three-bay façade to shelter the front walkway. The pediment is supported by four Tuscan columns, reflecting influence of the Classical Revival style.

Another building in the historic district associated with government functions is the U.S. Post Office (263-5038-0066, 15917 Kings Highway), which was constructed in 1960 and is executed in a restrained Modernist style often seen in Virginia's rural post offices. It is a one-story, rectangular, parapeted roofed, brick-clad building that holds four metal-frame fixed windows with colored aprons on its front elevation. Currently the post office building is in private ownership and the U.S. Postal Service leases the space. Prior to this building, the post office was in a portion of the store building at 15857 Kings Highway (263-5038-0069).

Residential Development

The twentieth-century residential development in Montross reflects popular architectural trends of the century, including the enduringly popular Colonial Revival style, vernacular forms such as T-plan frame dwellings, American Foursquare dwellings, bungalows, cottages, prefabricated "kit" houses, and later Minimal Traditional forms and Ranch houses. Several of the small, vernacular bungalows in Montross exhibit Craftsman style porch detailing, such as battered columns on piers, vertical pane windows, and stacked or cross-gable roofed wings.

The 1933 Colonial Revival-style house on the property known as Windsor (263-5038-0055, 16486 Kings Highway) replaced a Federal-era house that burned in that year. The present dwelling is a two-story, five-bay-wide frame house covered by a side-facing gable roof with paired exterior chimneys on the ends. The centrally located entrance is detailed with a fanlight and sidelights. The entry is sheltered by a pedimented two-level porch supported by Doric columns with Chippendale railings between them. This historic property is the large acreage farm at the east end of the historic district. A cedar-lined roadway that extended along the north side of the property ("from Andrew Chapel to East End") for many years was known as "Windsor Lane" and later was incorporated into Route 3.⁶³

One of the town's best examples of a twentieth-century Colonial Revival-style house is the Ames House built in 1940 for Dr. Edward T. Ames and his wife at 65 Court Square (263-5029). This two-story brick dwelling with a slate-clad, side-facing gable roof replaced the earlier dwelling at the site that Dr. Ames

⁶² Pitts, "Land Deeds and Records," 2000:11.

⁶³ Burruss, 1931.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

moved (known as the Jenkins House and since demolished). The Ames House is notable for its fine brickwork that includes a three-course Flemish bond variant on the exterior walls, projecting stringcourse, jack arches above the window openings, and two double-shouldered exterior end chimneys with corbelled caps. Notable woodwork includes the broken pediment and fluted pilaster surround at the front entrance, dentiled cornice, and Chippendale railing on the front stoop entrance. The house was constructed by Corney Weldon, a Westmoreland County contractor. With its manicured lawn, paling fence, and mature trees, this property, which stands behind the courthouse, contributes to the historical character of the court square. For many years, Dr. Ames had a separate office building on the property.⁶⁴

The dwelling on the parcel known as the “Methodist parsonage lot” (263-0011, 15239 Kings Highway) was erected between 1930 and 1940.⁶⁵ Despite material alterations, the house retains its appearance as an early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival-style dwelling. The two-story, five-bay-wide house is clad with vinyl siding and is covered by a metal-clad side-facing gable roof. An exterior brick chimney rises on the west end of the house and an interior chimney projects from the north (rear) slope of the roof. The centrally located front entrance has a replacement door and fixed sidelights and is topped by a lunette window. The gable-roofed entry portico features square wooden supports and a barrel-arched ceiling.

There are several early-twentieth-century houses in Montross constructed from prefabricated or “kit” houses that were mail ordered from various companies. Among confirmed mail-order examples is the Dutch Colonial-style house at 15460 Kings Highway (263-5005), which is the “Van Jean” model from Sears, Roebuck and Co. (Figure 15). In 1929, Stanley Dawson, the Agricultural Extension Agent for Westmoreland County, and his wife, Georgia, purchased and erected the house. The Dawsons lived in the house for 70 years. The two-story frame house retains its distinctive gambrel roof, front portico entry, wooden sash windows, window seats, and a one-story sunroom on the east end, which was an option offered with the Van Jean model. A local touch are the oyster shell concrete blocks used in the foundation, which were probably poured on-site. Original interior features include oak flooring, the brick fireplace, built-in shelving, and plaster walls.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Arthur E. Carver III, Personal Communication, November 21, 2022.

⁶⁵ Pitts, “In the Early Days Around Montross,” states that records show this is a Sears, Roebuck, and Co. mail order house, but does not cite a source. Arthur E. Carver III also stated that the house was a Sears house, personal communication, November 21, 2022.

⁶⁶ Richard Amrhine, “Montross Sears Home is Part of American History,” *The Free Lance-Star*, September 25, 2015. Accessed on the Free Lance-Star website on October 11, 2021, at https://fredericksburg.com/lifestyles/house_and_home/montross-sears-home-is-part-of-american-history/article_3b962132-10dd-5309-94e3-45381cb7bec7.html. The Van Jean model was offered by Sears, Roebuck, and Co. in 1928 and 1929.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

SIX-ROOM COLONIAL

The Van Jean
"Already Cut" and Fitted
P327A Price with Sun Room, \$2,887.00
P327B Price without Sun Room, \$2,626.00

What Our Prices Include
At the prices quoted we will furnish all the material to build this six-room colonial house, consisting of:
Lumber, Lath, Roofing, Oriental Slate, Sash, Windows, Guaranteed by us.
Siding, 5/8-inch Cedar Siding or Cedar Red Cedar, Best
Finishing Lumber, No. 1 Quality Douglas Fir or Pacific
Coast Hemlock.
Flooring, 3/4-inch Clear Oak throughout except
Kitchen and Bathroom which are 1/2-inch Clear
Maple.
Porch Ceiling, Clear Grade Douglas Fir or Pacific Coast
Hemlock.
Finishing Lumber, High Grade Millwork (see page 12)
Hut and Hut.
Interior Doors, One-Part Sub-Frame Design of Clear
Fir.
Trim, Back Band Style of Beveled Grain Douglas Fir
or Yellow Pine, Birch Stair Treads, Newel and Rail,
Mantel, Sash.
Kitchen Cabinets, Medicine Case,
Windows of California Clear White Pine,
Heavy Waterproof Building Paper, Sash, Weather-
strips, Trough and Down Spouts.
Sashes, Double Glazed (see page 16).
Paint for Three Coats Outside Trim and Siding.
Five-Coat Enamel Finish for Trim, Mahogany Stain,
Shellac, Two Coats of Varnish for Doors, Stair
Treads, Rail, and Sash.
Wood Floor and Two Coats of Varnish for Oak Floors.
Two Coats of Varnish for Maple Floors.
Complete Plans and Specifications.
Built on a concrete and brick foundation and safeguarded
under entire house.
We guarantee enough material to build this house.
Prices do not include cement, brick or plaster.
See description of "Honor Bill" Houses on pages
12 and 13.

OPTIONS
4-in-1 Side Oriental Asphalt Slate Surface Strip Sashes,
guaranteed for 10 years, instead of Oriental, 1/2-inch
Sashes for roof \$3.00 less for P327A and \$3.00 for
P327B.
Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish, to take the place of wood
trim, with sun room, \$148.00; without sun room, \$140.00
extra. See page 14.
Sash, Front and Windows, with sun room, \$87.00 extra;
without sun room, \$77.00.
Screen Doors and Windows, galvanized wire, with sun room,
\$3.00 extra; without sun room, \$2.00.
For prices of Plumbing, Heating, Wiring, Electric
Fixtures and Shades see pages 12 and 13.

FIRST FLOOR
The Reception Hall. Entry into the reception hall re-
veals the substantial character of this Dutch Colonial home.
An open stairway leads to the second floor. To the left of
entrance is a coat closet with side for coats and a hat closet,
accommodating a large number of guests' clothes. A grand-
father clock can be set along the left wall. On the right side
of the reception hall are wide openings with French doors,
giving an excellent view of the large living room and the
dining room on the opposite side.

The Living Room. To the right of hall you enter the
living room, which is of the proper proportions to accom-
modate its furnishings to the last advantage. It is unusually
large for a house of the size of the Van Jean. See the floor
plan. Almost directly opposite the wide opening with
French doors is a large mantel and fireplace, which is the
central feature. All furniture may be grouped to your
liking in the room. Windows on three sides
afford plenty of light and air, making a cheerful room.

The Sun Room. A French door opens into the sun
room from the living room if P327A is ordered. Seven
large windows flood this room with sunlight. Easily
furnished and draped, it can be made the chosen spot in
winter or summer.

SECOND FLOOR
The Dining Room. To the left of the hall is the dining
room. It is of good size. Windows on two sides give the
desired light and ventilation.

The Kitchen. From the dining room you pass a swing-
ing door into the model kitchen. Here the sink, the kitchen
cabinets, the country chest and space for stove and sink
have been arranged with a thought to save the housewife
for servants' busy days each day. A high, wide
gives plenty of light over the range and sink. The
rear entry provides space for an ice box, which can be
used without interrupting the kitchen floor. To the
right are stairs leading to the bathroom and to the left is
the grade door to yard.

The Bedrooms. The stairway hall has a good sized window
at the landing. A short hall connects with all bedrooms
and bath. On one side is the main bedroom of large size
which accommodates two beds, dresser, chair and other
furniture. Two closets are at one end of room.
Between the closets and underneath a window is a built-in
seat with chest underneath. There are two other bedrooms,
each with closet doors. Ample ventilation and light are
assured by the correct number of windows in each room.
Close to the bathroom and handy to the bedrooms is a linen
closet in the second floor hall.

The Bathroom. Room for furnace, laundry and stairs.
Height of Ceiling. Basement, 7 feet high from floor
to joists, with cement floor. First floor, 9 feet from floor to
ceiling. Second floor, 8 feet 7 inches from floor to ceiling.

Can be built on
a lot 50 feet wide
with sun room,
and on a lot 40
feet wide without
sun room.

This house can
be built with the
rooms reversed.
See page 3.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

For Our Easy Payment Plan See Page 144—For Our Information Blank See Page 141
Page 30 See Interior Views of The Van Jean Home on opposite Page 7802

Figure 15. Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s Van Jean Model advertisement. Source: Sears Archives.

Another Sears mail-order house is the frame cottage at 16026 Kings Highway (263-5021), which is an example of the company's "Crescent" model offered from 1921 until the early 1930s. This house, erected in 1929, retains the distinctive features of the model including the front portico with its paired columns, open pediment and barrel-arched ceiling. The three-part windows that flank the entry consist of a central picture window with multi-pane sash at the top and four-over-four sidelights. The interior retains original elements including millwork, wall sconces, hardware, and built-in shelves and ironing board (Figure 16).

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State

FIVE ROOMS-NEAT PORCH



At the prices quoted we will furnish all the mill work, kitchen cupboard, flooring, shingles, siding, finishing lumber, building paper, eaves trough, down spout, roofing, sash weights, hardware, porch screens, painting material, lumber and lath to build this five-room house. We guarantee enough material to build this house. Prices do not include cement, brick or plaster.



FLOOR PLAN No. 3086.

See Description of "Honor Bill" Houses on Page 7.
This house can be built with the easiest, freestanding, see page 3.

OPTIONS
Furnished with two rooms in attic, \$225.00 extra.
Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath, for No. 3086, \$112.00 extra; with attic, \$160.00 extra. For No. 3084, \$133.00 extra; with attic, \$192.00 extra. See page 114.
Storm Doors and Windows, black wire, for No. 3086, \$76.00 extra; for No. 3084, \$35.00 extra; galvanized wire, for No. 3086, \$25.00 extra; for No. 3084, \$25.00 extra.
Clear Maple Flooring furnished for kitchen and bathroom instead of yellow pine, no extra charge.
Oak Doors, Trim and Floor for living room, dining room and Oak Stairs for \$218.00 extra.
This house can be built on a lot 40 feet wide.

Honor Bill

The Crescent

\$1,704.00
2,039.00

No. 3086 "Already Cut and Fitted"
 No. 3084 "Already Cut and Fitted"

TO THE folks who like a touch of individuality with good taste the Crescent makes a special appeal. The front door and windows have been admirably selected, Seldom, indeed, do you find a more inviting entrance than we provide for this house. Your choice of two floor plans as shown.

Main Floor The large living room and dining room are connected by means of a wide cased opening. The windows in living room and dining room make both of these very well lighted and ventilated. The open stairs present a nice effect in the living room and there is a door at the top of stairs to prevent drafts or cold from the attic. The kitchen is conveniently located and planned to save steps, in which is furnished one of our handy and roomy cabinets. Soiled dishes are carried to the sink merely by pushing the swinging door leading to the kitchen—the sink is right next to the door. The grade entrance of No. 3086 gives access to cellar without going outdoors and keeps mud and winter winds out of the kitchen. Each bedroom has a generous closet with a door, and room for bedroom furniture, so that beds may be placed away from windows. Rooms on this floor are 9 feet from floor to ceiling. Paint for three coats outside, your choice of color. Varnish and wood filler for two coats of interior finish. Stratford Design hardware, see page 121. We furnish our best "Quality Guaranteed" mill work, shown on pages 118 and 119. Interior doors are five-cross panel.

with trim and flooring to match, all yellow pine, in beautiful grain and color. Windows are made of clear California white pine, with steel quality glass set in with best grade of putty. "Honor Bill" frame construction No. 1 yellow pine framing lumber, sided with narrow bevel clear cypress shingles. Newly-peeled Fine-Grained Shingle Siding, guaranteed to last for seventeen years, your choice of color, dark red or sea green, on roof, and wood shingles on gables. Built on concrete foundation. Basement under entire house 7 feet high.

For prices of Plumbing, Heating, Wiring, Electric Fixtures and Shades see page 115.

"Honor Bill" houses have double floors and are enclosed with good sheathing.



FLOOR PLAN No. 3084.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

Figure 16. Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s Crescent Model advertisement. Source: Sears Archives.

A good example of an early-twentieth-century bungalow is the dwelling at 15482 Kings Highway (263-5006), at present the home of the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society. The one-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide, frame dwelling, built in 1936, is distinctive for its Craftsman-inspired details including the paneled wooden front door with small window panes at the top and the full-width front porch. The porch is covered by a shed roof and features arched beam openings on the front and sides that are supported by

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

squat, paneled, square columns set atop brick piers. This was the home of Everette and Myrtle Marsh for over 70 years. Mr. Marsh operated his Montross barbershop for 60 years, served on town council, and was mayor. Mrs. Marsh had been a schoolteacher and later worked at the local Harris Variety Store.⁶⁷

There are several examples of early-twentieth-century American Foursquare houses in the historic district. The Carver House (263-5023) 16165 Kings Highway, and the house at 61 Polk Street (263-5032) were built in the 1910s. The Carver house, which replaced an earlier house on the site, is associated with the prominent local family that operated the bottling plant and other local businesses. The property includes historic secondary resources including a smokehouse, a garage, and secondary dwellings. Mr. Carver had a Delco system that provided electricity to the house.⁶⁸ The American Foursquare dwelling on Polk Street is notable for the c. 1915 windmill structure still standing behind the house; presence of a windmill indicates that the house was equipped with indoor plumbing and electricity when built.

Other examples of American Foursquare houses dating to the 1920s and 1930s include the house at 16017 Kings Highway (263-5020), which features a side-bay entrance and a columned front porch. The house at 16006 Kings Highway (263-5019) has a hipped-roofed front porch that wraps around the east side of the house, metal pressed shingle-clad roofs, and a stylistically similar garage. A very similar house is located at 36 Alma Lane (263-5033). Both of the latter houses feature complex rooflines, cross-gable bays, hipped dormers, and tall brick chimneys.

Integrity Analysis

The Montross Historic District retains good overall integrity and continues to convey its historic appearance and character as a governmental and commercial center. The district's integrity of historical setting, feeling and association are supported by the still-rural surrounding countryside, the intact historical road system in the town, and notable physical features (such as Chandlers Mill Pond and the ravine). The historic district contains resources that directly relate to the town's continuous role as Westmoreland's seat of government since the late seventeenth century. The village-like quality of the town is enhanced by commercial buildings that are set close to the road, while residential properties tend to be set back on large, wooded lots. Although late-eighteenth and nineteenth-century resources are present in the historic district, the majority of the contributing resources date to the early and mid-twentieth century. Historical photographs indicate that many earlier buildings have been repurposed and remodeled, but retain sufficient historical material to convey their original appearance. The district's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are supported by the prominent historic resources of the courthouse, museum, and Northern Neck Bottling Co., which retain a very high level of integrity, the other architect-designed buildings in the town, and several notable historical residences. There are only a few resources in the historic district that were constructed after the period of significance (ca. 1810-1970). These include a government (town) building, a branch library, one residence, and two of the military memorials on the court square. Overall, the resources in the district possess good to very good integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The historic district boundaries have been drawn to exclude the modern commercial development on the east end of town and undeveloped land surrounding the town. Because the A.T. Johnson High School has been individually listed in the National Register, it was not necessary to extend the boundaries to include that resource.

⁶⁷ "Our New Society Headquarters," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. LVIV (2009): 7088-7089.

⁶⁸ Arthur E. Carver III, Personal Communication, December 1, 2022.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Archaeological Potential

No systematic archaeological survey has been undertaken in the Town of Montross and only a few archaeological sites in the historic district have been documented through construction projects or compliance efforts. Historical records, as well as above-ground remnants, suggest the former site of numerous, no longer extant, seventeenth and eighteenth-century buildings in the historic district. Although redevelopment of these sites may have impacted intact deposits, some may continue to hold artifacts important for the interpretation of the cultural, societal, and economic life of Montross residences throughout the village's 350 years of historic occupation. The village's siting on a high terrace in an area historically traversed by Native American pathways (later wagon roads and vehicular roads) and with easy access to numerous waterways suggests that prehistoric deposits also may be present. Because of the continuous occupation of the court square and surrounding parcels since the late seventeenth century, the courthouse site is likely to have potential for intact archaeological resources from those periods.

Sites that have been identified within the historic district were found to contain both prehistoric and historic artifacts. During a building expansion project, artifacts dating from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries were observed at the Inn at Montross site (44WM0043), which is near the courthouse. In addition to historic deposits, sites on some of the large, agricultural lands at the edges of the district have produced prehistoric artifacts. Site 44WM0316, a multi-component site that was discovered at the edge of a cultivated field, held an isolated quartzite projectile point (likely a loss or discard) and the remnants of an eighteenth-century tenant or slave dwelling. Another site, 44WM0213, located along a private drive, contained quartzite debitage, suggesting prehistoric activity in the area.

Known Archaeological Sites in Montross

Site #	Survey Date	Type	Affiliation	Name	Function	Author
44WM0043	1977	Historic	17 th -19 th Century	Montross Tavern Site	Tavern	Beverly A. "Bly" Bogley
44WM0213	1982	Prehistoric	Archaic (middle)	[Woodbury field] (destroyed)	Artifact scatter	Gregory A. and Linda Waselkov.
44WM0316	2017	Prehistoric/Historic	Archaic (middle)/ 1740-1780	Site 1	Isolate find/dwelling	Darby O'Donnell

INVENTORY

The following inventory includes all resources located within the district boundaries, both primary and secondary, and notes whether they are contributing or noncontributing to the district. The properties are arranged alphabetically by street name, then numerically by house number. Non-contributing resources are so designated if they were constructed outside of the period of significance (ca. 1801-1970) or are altered to such an extent that they no longer retain sufficient integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association to convey their historic significance. Resources are keyed to the attached Sketch Map using the last four digits of the resource's 11-digit DHR inventory number (i.e., -0001, -0002, etc.) and by the resource's current street address as shown in the inventory below.

Alma Lane

36 Alma Lane

263-5033

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0035

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1931

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

<i>Secondary Resource</i> : Chicken House/Poultry House (Building)	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
		<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Secondary Resource</i> : Garage (Building)	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Secondary Resource</i> : Shed (Building)	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1

Ames Lane

105 Ames Lane

263-5038-0019

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

22 Ames Lane

263-5030

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0032

Primary Resource: **Jail (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, 1911**

Contributing *Total:* 1

28 Ames Lane

263-5038-0006

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Well (Structure)**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Court Square

105 Court Square

263-5031

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0033

Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1924**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** *Total:* 1

65 Court Square

263-5029

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0031

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Pool/Swimming Pool (Structure)**

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Windmill (Structure)**

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

99 Court Square

263-0003

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0003

Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Greek Revival, 1930**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Court Square

263-0001-0001

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0080

Primary Resource: **Sculpture/Statue (Object), Stories , Style: No discernible style, 1876**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Court Square

263-0001-0002

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0081

Primary Resource: **Sculpture/Statue (Object), Stories , Style: No discernible style, 1982**

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Court Square

263-0001-0003

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0082

Primary Resource: **Monument/Marker (Object), Stories , Style: No discernible style, 1982**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Kings Highway

15075 Kings Highway

263-5001

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0093

Primary Resource: **Theater (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, 1947**

Contributing Total: 1

15115 Kings Highway

263-5038-0092

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1948**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

15149 Kings Highway

263-5038-0091

Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Sign (Object)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

15152 Kings Highway

263-0008

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0085

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1880**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

15175 Kings Highway

263-0009

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0086

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1930**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

15219 Kings Highway

263-0010

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0088

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

15238 Kings Highway

263-0007

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0084

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1880**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

15239 Kings Highway

263-0011

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0089

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

15268 Kings Highway

263-5038-0100

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, 1968**

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

15277 Kings Highway **263-0012** *Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0090*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1945

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

15296 Kings Highway **263-5038-0097**

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940

Contributing Total: 1

15346 Kings Highway **263-5038-0098**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1960

Contributing Total: 1

15353 Kings Highway **263-5038-0087**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1920

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15362 Kings Highway **263-5038-0101**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1974

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

15364 Kings Highway **263-5002**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0094

Non-contributing Total: 1

15381 Kings Highway **263-5038-0083**

Primary Resource: Brewery (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960

Contributing Total: 1

15411 Kings Highway **263-5003**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0012

Contributing Total: 1

15432 Kings Highway **263-5004**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1934

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0007

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Pool/Swimming Pool (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

15460 Kings Highway **263-5005**

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Dutch, Ca 1929

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0008

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15482 Kings Highway

263-5006

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0009

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, 1936

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15485 Kings Highway

263-5038-0039

Primary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1945

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

15498 Kings Highway

263-5007

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0010

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1939

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15518 Kings Highway

263-5038-0040

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

15527 Kings Highway

263-0006

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0005

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1810

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15544 Kings Highway

263-5038-0041

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Modernist, Ca 1940

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15568 Kings Highway

263-5008

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0011

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1929

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Storage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15587 Kings Highway

263-5038-0042

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1990

Non-contributing Total: 1

15614 Kings Highway

263-0004

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0004

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, Ca 1820

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 2

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

15648 Kings Highway

263-5038-0043

Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1980

Non-contributing Total: 1

15692 Kings Highway

263-5010

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0013

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940

Contributing Total: 1

15700 Kings Highway

263-5038-0044

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Modernist, Ca 1960

Contributing Total: 1

15706 Kings Highway

263-5038-0045

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945

Contributing Total: 1

15722 Kings Highway

263-5038-0046

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950

Contributing Total: 1

15725 Kings Highway

263-5011

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0014

Primary Resource: Processing Plant (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, 1932

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Mixed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15739 Kings Highway

263-5012

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0015

Primary Resource: Service Station (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1934

Contributing Total: 1

15748 Kings Highway

263-5038-0048

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Contemporary, Ca 1980

Non-contributing Total: 1

15749 Kings Highway

263-5038-0078

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1955

Non-contributing Total: 1

15762-15764 Kings Highway

263-5038-0049

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950

Contributing Total: 1

15763 Kings Highway

263-5038-0077

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1955

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

15765 Kings Highway

263-5038-0016

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Neo-Eclectic, Ca 2020

Non-contributing Total: 1

15779 Kings Highway

263-5014

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0017

Primary Resource: Automobile Showroom (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, 1927

Contributing Total: 1

15786 Kings Highway

263-5038-0050

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1955

Contributing Total: 1

15803 Kings Highway

263-0001

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0001

Primary Resource: Courthouse (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1900, 1936

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Well House (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15829 Kings Highway

263-5038-0072

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Neo-Eclectic, 1946

Non-contributing Total: 1

15835-15837 Kings Highway

263-5038-0071

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

15851-15853 Kings Highway

263-5038-0070

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

15852 Kings Highway

263-5017

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0020

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1929

Contributing Total: 1

15857 Kings Highway

263-5038-0069

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935

Contributing Total: 1

15869 Kings Highway

263-5038-0068

Primary Resource: City/Town Hall (Building), Stories 1, Style: Neo-Classical Revival, Ca 2010

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

15870 Kings Highway

263-0002

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0002

Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Gothic Revival, 1889

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Cemetery (Site)

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

15885 Kings Highway

263-5038-0067

Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 2000**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 2

15896 Kings Highway

263-5018

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0021

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

15917 Kings Highway

263-5038-0066

Private ownership; leased by USPS per leased facility reports at

<https://about.usps.com/who/legal/foia/leased-facilities.htm>

Primary Resource: **Post Office (Building), Stories 1, Style: Modernist, 1960**

Contributing Total: 1

15943 Kings Highway

263-5036

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0036

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1830**

Contributing Total: 1

15960 Kings Highway

263-5038-0051

Primary Resource: **Bank (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1965**

Non-contributing Total: 1

15977 Kings Highway

263-5038-0065

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1965**

Contributing Total: 1

15993 Kings Highway

263-5038-0064

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1955**

Contributing Total: 1

16006 Kings Highway

263-5019

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0022

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1930**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 2

Secondary Resource : **Tennis Court (Structure)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

16017 Kings Highway

263-5020

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0023

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

16026-16028 Kings Highway

263-5021

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0024

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1929

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Single Dwelling (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

16091 Kings Highway

263-5022

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0025

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

16096 Kings Highway

263-5038-0018

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

16133 Kings Highway

263-5038-0063

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1965

Contributing Total: 1

16140 Kings Highway

263-5038-0052

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

16165 Kings Highway

263-5023

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0026

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Total: 2

Secondary Resource : Smoke/Meat House (Building)

Total: 1

16224 Kings Highway

263-5038-0053

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

16340 Kings Highway

263-5038-0054

Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1971

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Cemetery (Site)

Contributing Total: 1

16380 Kings Highway

263-5024

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0027

Primary Resource: School (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1930

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Administration Bldg. (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Playing Field (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 2

Secondary Resource : Track (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

16400 Kings Highway

263-5038-0056

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1935

Contributing Total: 1

16419 Kings Highway

263-5025

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0028

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Art Deco, 1938

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Service Station (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

16486 Kings Highway

263-5038-0055

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1933

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Pole Barn (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Pump (Structure)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Silo (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Workshop (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

16501 Kings Highway

263-5026

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0029

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1938

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Total: 1

16517 Kings Highway

263-5027

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0030

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

16557 Kings Highway

263-5038-0062

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

16589 Kings Highway

263-5038-0061

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1960

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

16607 Kings Highway

263-5038-0060

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Contributing *Total: 1*

16619 Kings Highway

263-5038-0059

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930

Contributing *Total: 1*

Secondary Resource : Shed (Building)

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

16633 Kings Highway

263-5038-0058

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1930

Contributing *Total: 1*

16649 Kings Highway

263-5038-0057

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1940

Contributing *Total: 1*

Secondary Resource : Garage (Building)

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

Kings Highway

263-5038-0099

Primary Resource: Power Plant (Structure), Stories , Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960

Contributing *Total: 1*

Polk Street

5 Polk Street

263-5038-0076

Primary Resource: Water Tower (Structure), Stories , Style: No discernible style, Ca 1955

Contributing *Total: 1*

21 Polk Street

263-5037

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0037

Primary Resource: Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1800

Contributing *Total: 1*

39 Polk Street

263-5038-0073

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1955

Contributing *Total: 1*

Secondary Resource : Gazebo (Structure)

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

43 Polk Street

263-5038-0074

Primary Resource: Museum (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1941

Contributing *Total: 1*

Secondary Resource : Garden (Site)

Contributing *Total: 1*

56 Polk Street

263-5038-0038

Primary Resource: Library (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2000

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

61 Polk Street

263-5032

Other DHR Id#: 263-5038-0034

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1915

Contributing *Total: 1*

Secondary Resource : Carport (Structure)

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Windmill (Structure)**

Contributing Total: 1

82 Polk Street

263-5038-0079

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1965**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

96 Polk Street

263-5038-0075

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

114 Polk Street

263-5038-0095

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1910**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Rectory Road

34 Rectory Road

263-5038-0047

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950**

Contributing Total: 1

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

EDUCATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1810-1970

Significant Dates

1823

1852

1900

1911

1932

1936

1938

1946

1947

1955

1960

1967

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Freeman, Horace George

Gillette, Charles Freeman (Landscape Architect, Virginia Presidents' Garden)

Hennage, John W. (builder)

Huff, Clarence W., Jr.

Parker, Julian (contractor)

Pringle & Smith (Robert S. Pringle and Francis Palmer Smith)

Smith, Bartholomew F.

Stevenson Flemer, Eason Cross, Harry Adreon, Associated Architects

Weldon, Corney (contractor)

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

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

The Montross Historic District encompasses a significant concentration of historic architectural resources related to the history of the town, which was established as the Westmoreland County seat of government in the 1680s. Although there are no known physical aspects in the historic district that are associated with late-seventeenth-century resources, the early-twentieth-century courthouse and its court green stand at, or near, the historical site of the early government buildings. Because of the continuous occupation of the court square and the surrounding parcels since the late seventeenth century, that part of the historic district is considered to possess the potential for intact archaeological deposits. The district's nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century resources represent the development of this incorporated town from a small, but vibrant, Court House village to a significant commercial and transportation hub on Virginia's Northern Neck. The Montross Historic District is recommended eligible under National Register Criterion A at the state level in the area of Politics and Government for its role as the county seat, and at the local level in the area of Commerce for its role as the main commercial center in Westmoreland County, particularly during the early to mid-twentieth century. The town also is significant in the area of Education, as the site of early county schools, including Washington and Lee High School. The historic district is eligible under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture for its interesting collection of architectural styles that span over 200 years and retain a high degree of historic integrity. The period of significance begins ca. 1810, which is the earliest known construction date associated with a standing resource (Mont Calm, 263-0006, 15527 Kings Highway) and ends in 1970, when significant development in town was completed. The historic district encompasses 100 parcels with 185 architectural resources. The district retains a high level of integrity with 135 resources identified as contributing.

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

Criterion A: Politics and Government

The Montross Historic District is significant at the state level under Criterion A in the area of Government and Politics for its continuous role as the Westmoreland County seat of government since the 1680s and as the historic location of the county courthouse. The courthouse located in the district, the third at this approximate site, was constructed in 1900 and renovated to its present Colonial Revival-style appearance in 1936 using, in part, federal relief funds. The building, no longer in use as a courthouse, faces east to Route 3/Kings Highway and is fronted by the court square green. Several buildings constructed around the court square add to the historic context of the site. The Clerk's office, moved from a separate building into the courthouse around 1900, was housed in the rear wing of the courthouse. The former jail, a brick building constructed about 1911, stands northeast of the courthouse. The earliest section of the Inn at Montross/Spence's Tavern, located southwest of the courthouse, may date to the late-eighteenth century and was an important amenity in the early court house village. In the early 1940s, the Westmoreland County Library and Museum, standing northwest of the courthouse, was erected on land donated by the county; Richmond architect Clarence W. Huff, Jr., designed the building, which reflects Colonial-era domestic design influences and is a handsome addition to the courthouse setting. In the late 1940s, landscape architect Charles F. Gillette donated his design for the "Virginia Presidents' Garden" that stands adjacent to the museum. The small, walled garden, the completion of which was sponsored by the Westmoreland County Garden Club remains, an important landscape feature in the district. The former courthouse and its green continue to serve as a significant gathering location for residents and houses part of the Westmoreland

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

County Museum's collections and research library. A federal post office has been located in Montross since the mid-nineteenth century and that governmental presence continues today in a building constructed in 1960. A new courthouse built in 2014 stands just north of the former courthouse and outside of the historic district.

Criterion A: Commerce

The Montross Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its historic role as a commercial center that served the surrounding rural residents, and later as an important stop along the primary transportation corridor of Route 3. Early local businesses and industries included inns and taverns, small shops, a tanyard, and a carriage maker. Typical of many of Virginia's county seats, Montross remained a small, but active, village during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with court days being the most commercially prosperous events. As historian Rhys Isaac notes, in eighteenth-century Virginia "communal assembly was intermittent rather than continuous" and generally focused on court days and church attendance.⁶⁹

In the early and mid-twentieth century, the village grew as local commercial enterprises flourished and expanded. Establishment of the Bank of Montross and the People's Bank of Montross provided convenient local financial services, while numerous grocery stores, variety stores, furniture stores, and physicians' offices also served the community. By the late 1930s, the historical dependence on the waterways for shipping and travel was replaced by vehicular travel as roadways were paved and improved. Responding to the increase in automobile travel along Route 3, new businesses established in Montross provided much-needed automobile services, such as gas stations, garages, and dealerships. Such businesses served village residents, residents in the surrounding farmland and in other Northern Neck counties, and those travelling along the Northern Neck as visitors. Many of those automobile-oriented buildings have been repurposed, but retain their historical appearance and are easily identified with their historic uses. No local industry meant more to Montross in terms of economic growth and quality of life for its employees and local residents than the Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., which operated in the town from 1923 through 2001. Founded by several county businessmen and led by Arthur E. Carver, the plant became the state leader in sales per capita in its franchise region. The handsome brick plant executed by the company in 1932 was built according to a standardized design by Atlanta-based architects Pringle & Smith and promulgated by The Coca-Cola Co.

Criterion A: Education

The Montross Historic District is significant at a local level under Criterion A in the area of Education as the historic location of several of the county's schools since the late nineteenth century. The Washington and Lee Agricultural High School, established in 1911, was the first two-story high school in the county for White students. A fire destroyed that building and the 1918 building that replaced it. In 1930, the present one-story, Colonial Revival-style brick building was constructed. It stands on the east end of the historic district at the site of the previous schools and on land that formerly was part of the Chandler family's Windsor plantation. In 1967, a modern gymnasium and auditorium building was added to the property.

The educational system in the state remained racially segregated through the late twentieth century. In the early twentieth century, the county's Montross School District had about six schools for Black students, including an elementary school located just outside the western end of the historic district near Chandlers

⁶⁹ Isaac, 88, 317.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Mill Pond (on Dingley Road).⁷⁰ In 1922, the second school erected on that site was funded in part by the Rosenwald Fund. The fund was an initiative of Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co., in collaboration with Booker T. Washington, educator and Virginia native, to narrow racial schooling gaps in the South by assisting in constructing better, more-accessible schools for African Americans. The Montross school was one of seven Rosenwald-funded schools in Westmoreland County built between 1917 and 1929. The two-room school remained in use at least through the late 1930s. The Chandlers Mill Pond building, the presumed remains of which stand on the north side of Dingley Road and outside of the district, is in ruinous condition, but is a reminder of the importance placed on education by the local African-American community and is a tie to a nationally significant historic program. The history of these schools reflects the racially segregated educational system that was in place in the county, and in Virginia, through the late twentieth century.⁷¹

Another significant African-American school in the area is the Armstead T. (A.T.) Johnson High School (096-0113), which stands outside of the historic district boundaries but near the eastern end of the Montross Historic District. The school, built in 1937, was among the first purpose-built high schools for African-American students on the Northern Neck of Virginia. Prior to its construction, the only school to provide upper-grade curriculum for Black students was the Potomac School in Hague, located in a three-room building that also served as the Potomac Baptist Church. Though centrally located in the county, many students lived some distance away and had no transportation to the school. Thus, many African-American students ended their education with elementary school; families who had the means, sent their high school students to Black schools in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, or Philadelphia, where they could board with extended family members or friends and attend school in those cities. The A.T. Johnson School was built in accordance with State Board of Education plans and is one of the county's most intact examples of an early-twentieth-century rural high school.⁷² In 1998, the school and its associated support buildings were listed in the National Register.

Although the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision declared segregated schools unconstitutional, Virginia's "Massive Resistance" legal framework and policies, adopted in 1956, blocked integration. In some localities, officials closed schools rather than integrate them. Around 1958, all the one- and two-room schools for Black students in Westmoreland County were closed and students were bussed to larger schools. It was not until 1967 that Westmoreland County integrated its schools.

As the county's two main high schools, the National Register-listed A.T. Johnson and Washington and Lee schools represent a significant period in the history of education in the Commonwealth and the county. Local residents, Black and White, organized groups that advocated for the construction of these buildings at the centrally convenient site of Montross and the buildings are reminders of their efforts to secure an improved education for their children. The Washington and Lee High School, though no longer housing

⁷⁰ Other district schools were: Morningstar School in Hinnom, Salem School in Mount Holly, Sweet Home School in Crookhorn (associated with the Payne family), Zacata (the four schools that were built here over the years were constructed by the Reed family), and Templeman's. Cassandra Burton, *African-American Education in Westmoreland County* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia, c.1999), 98-99.

⁷¹ A 1938 photograph of students standing in front of the Chandlers Mill Pond School identifies the children as members of the Tate, Branson, Johnson, Payne, Reed, and Kelley families, among others. Burton, 30-31; Bryan Clark Green, "Rosenwald Schools in Virginia (DHR #012-5041)," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, [2003]; Burton, 98-99.

⁷² Betty Bird, "Armstead T. Johnson School, DHR #096-0113," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2008; Norris, 585; Burton, 108.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

the high school, is an important reminder of the period of integration of the state's formerly segregated school system.

Criterion C: Architecture and Landscape Architecture

The Montross Historic District is significant at a local level under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture as a diverse collection of buildings that represent 200 years of development in the court house village and for significant landscape resources. Several resources in the historic district were designed by notable regional architects or built by respected local contractors and builders.

Montross differs from Colonial Beach (an incorporated town) and Kinsale (a formerly incorporated town), which are both located on the Potomac River and historically served as important ports connected with large Mid-Atlantic cities. First known as Westmoreland Court House, Montross was established in the 1680s as the county's seat of government with a small village emerging around the courthouse building. No seventeenth-century resources are extant in the historic district; however, several early-nineteenth-century resources are standing, including the Federal-period houses built on large parcels that anchor the eastern and western ends of the historic district and provide a transition into the surrounding countryside.

Into the early twentieth century, transportation in the area remained focused on the bordering waterways (the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers) and overland routes tended to be narrow, unpaved trails leading between domestic and agricultural properties. Because of its location, Montross was relatively isolated with only one primary road extended through the area—present-day State Route 3/Kings Highway. That roadway, however, became the prominent vehicular route along the Northern Neck in the early twentieth century as transportation modes shifted from boat travel to automobiles. These changes resulted in significant construction in the town during the early- to mid-twentieth century and buildings from that period comprise the majority of resources in the historic district.

The principal architectural resource in the district is the former courthouse and the green space that fronts the building. The courthouse, the fourth to stand on this site, dates from 1900 and was designed and built by the B.F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company of Alexandria; in 1936, the building was renovated to its current Colonial Revival-style appearance. The courthouse is surrounded by several handsome buildings that enhance its setting, including the historic Inn at Montross, part of which may date to the eighteenth century, and early-twentieth century buildings that formerly housed the county jail, a law office, a bank, the county library and museum, and one of the town's earliest car dealerships. Nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings reflect a variety of forms and styles including Federal, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, I-house, and American Foursquare. Two examples of prefabricated "kit" houses have been confirmed. Commercial buildings are typically one- to two-stories with glazed storefronts and parapeted roofs; some evoke a domestic character. Mid- and late-twentieth century examples of Art Deco and Modernist-influenced designs also are present. Two significant, architect-designed buildings in the historic district are the 1932 Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co.'s plant (263-5011) and the 1940s Westmoreland County Library and Museum (263-5038-0074). The bottling plant is an example of the Standard Design No. 3, designed by the Atlanta-based firm of Pringle & Smith and promulgated by the Coca-Cola Co. in its efforts to standardize its products and plants. The museum was designed by Richmond-based architect Clarence W. Huff, Jr., and is a significant example of Colonial Revival-style architecture.

The court house green is an important landscape resource in the district and historically has served as a primary gathering space and commemorative location. Several military memorials have been erected on the green, including the 1876 Confederate memorial that was moved to its present location in 1930. In addition to the court square green, the "Virginia Presidents' Garden," located adjacent to the Westmoreland

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

County Library and Museum building, is another important landscape resource in the historic district. Designed by renown landscape architect Charles Freeman Gillette and enhanced by three busts by Italian-American sculptor Attilio Piccirilli, the garden honors the eight U.S. presidents born in Virginia, including the three born in Westmoreland County (Washington, Madison, and Monroe).

Historical Background

The following narrative relies heavily on the tercentennial publication, *Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1653-1983* (ed. Walter Biscoe Norris, Jr.) and the research manuscripts of local historian W. Buren Pitts, located in the Westmoreland County Museum's research library. Additional information was shared with the author by Arthur E. Carver III, Josephine Carver, Regina Gaskins Baylor, and the staff of the Westmoreland County Museum (Brianna Morris and Emily Rocha).

Population

The 1790 federal census recorded 7,722 residents in Westmoreland County; of that number, there were 3,183 White residents, 114 free people of color, and 4,425 enslaved inhabitants. On the eve of the Civil War (1860), the county's population totaled 8,282 residents consisting of 3,387 Whites, 1,191 Free Blacks, and 3,704 enslaved. From 1900 to 1960, the population in Westmoreland County fluctuated only slightly. In 1900, the county had 9,243 residents and by 1960 the population had grown to 11,042 (an increase of about 16%). During the early twentieth century, many area residents left the county's farms and small villages to seek employment in urban centers; between 1920 and 1930, the county experienced a 17% decrease in population due, in part, to such emigrations. In later years, some of those residents returned to the county. In 1920, the county's population of 10,240 was nearly equally divided between White and Black residents. The first census data collected for the Town of Montross, established in 1942, was in 1950 and showed the town population at 331. In 2020, the Town of Montross had 553 residents of which 74% were White and 14% were African American.⁷³

Colonial Period

In his 1608 explorations up the Potomac River, John Smith documented his encounters with the Algonquin-speaking Native American tribes in the area and mapped the chiefdom districts and the location of their villages. In present-day Westmoreland County, the larger villages were located along the creeks and river shores at Nomini Creek and the Rappahannock River.⁷⁴ Beginning in the mid-seventeenth century, English settlers seeking fresh lands for tobacco cultivation moved westward and occupied the Northern Neck peninsula; some residents of the Maryland colony also moved to the area. Soon, populations were sufficient to create four counties: Northumberland (1645), Lancaster (1651), Westmoreland (1653), and Rappahannock (later known as Richmond County, 1656). Although treaties were signed with the Native inhabitants, many left the area by the end of the seventeenth century.

Historically extending to the northwest as far as the Great Falls of the Potomac, present-day Westmoreland County encompasses about 252 square miles, and is bordered on the north by the Potomac River and on the

⁷³ Williams, 29-32, 66-67; U.S. Census Bureau, "American Community Survey 5-year estimates," 2020. Accessed from Census Reporter Profile page for Montross, VA, on November 29, 2022, at <http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US152952-montross-va/>.

⁷⁴ Walter Biscoe Norris, Jr., ed. *Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1653-1983* (Montross, Virginia: Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors, 1983), 17-18, 29. At least five chiefdoms occupied the area that became Westmoreland County: Matchotie, Pissasec, Cuttatawomen II, Potomac, and Doegs. D. Brad Hatch, Barbara J. Heath, and Lauren K. McMillan, "Reassessing the Hallowes Site: Conflict and Settlement in the Seventeenth-Century Potomac Valley," *Historical Archaeology* Vol. 48, No. 4 (2014):48.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

south by the Rappahannock River. These waterways served as the primary transportation routes for area residents through the early twentieth century. Many of the county's prominent plantations and its earliest communities were founded along the shores of these rivers. The county's name is derived from the English county of the same name.⁷⁵

By 1655, eight county justices or commissioners had been appointed for Westmoreland County by the General Assembly in Jamestown. One of the justices, Walter Brodhurst, who was also appointed sheriff for Westmoreland, established a courthouse on his 500-acre plantation, later known as Chatham, at the mouth of Currioman Bay on the north side of the county along the Potomac River shore. It was common practice in the early years of Virginia's counties to hold court in private homes and various locations; given that several of the other commissioners were Brodhurst's neighbors, the location of the new courthouse was suitable.⁷⁶

Brodhurst's 1658 will, and documents related to his widowed wife Anne's later husband, John Washington, mention the courthouse building, as well as a jail, a shop, and a tavern on his property.⁷⁷ Since the buildings were on private land, the county court paid rent to Brodhurst and later owners for use of the courthouse and jail.

Surviving County Order Books record the efforts of the early court to establish a more permanent courthouse at a convenient location for Westmoreland's growing population. The settlement pattern of the Northern Neck, as in other regions of colonial Virginia, held few established towns or centers of concentrated populations in favor of dispersed rural plantations and properties with direct access to waterways. In the 1670s, the General Assembly urged localities to place governmental and public buildings near the geographic center of their regions to provide a commodious location, accessible to all residents dispersed throughout the area. Thus, in Westmoreland County, the courthouse relocated approximately five miles southwest of Brodhurst's original site to land granted by John Lord, the sheriff and a court justice, at present-day Montross. In 1678, the justices set forth the specifications for a new courthouse, which was to be "46 feet long, 24 feet broad." In 1682, the court's order stated "...that John Sturman build a Court House according to dimensions set forth."⁷⁸

As Pitts notes, "The present site of the courthouse during the late 1600s was in a deep forest, with only an Indian or animal path leading to it. Only in later years were the paths widen to allow wagons to pass through."⁷⁹ Construction of the courthouse began about 1683 and were initially completed about 1685; renovations and repairs to the building continued for several years thereafter. The site of the courthouse, as set forth in the 1678 order, was to be "between the brow of the hill on the level betwixt Harris and Mr. Lewling's in the most convenient place for water" [referring to a nearby spring and referred to in later deeds

⁷⁵ Salmon and Campbell.

⁷⁶ Virginia Harris Clapp, "Westmoreland County, Virginia Celebrating 350 Years," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. LIII, No. 1 (December) 2003:6313.

⁷⁷ Norris, 111-112; Mrs. A.E. Carver, 2208. Mrs. Carver, whose address was given in 1937, noted that a chimney from the Brodhurst courthouse stood at the site "until about five years ago."

⁷⁸ Carl R. Lounsbury, *The Courthouses of Early Virginia: An Architectural History* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2005), 54-56. The land on which the courthouse was constructed [in present-day Montross] was first patented jointly by John Lord and William Horton in 1667. Through a division, Lord acquired 800 acres on the western side of that tract. Lord also patented other lands in Westmoreland County. Court records variously indicate that Lord granted three or six acres for the courthouse. A survey in 1835 shows the courthouse on six acres. The county later sold off lots from this parcel. Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County," August 2002:3-4, 22.

⁷⁹ Pitts, "Land Deeds and Records," January 2000:2.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

as the “John Minor Spring”], which corresponds to the present court square site.⁸⁰ During the next few decades, that courthouse required ongoing finishing “as it was first intended” (including flooring, window glass, and shutters), repairs, additions, and remodeling, but continued to serve the county court through the early eighteenth century. The small village that grew up around the building was known as Westmoreland Court House until the mid-nineteenth century, when the name was changed to Montross.⁸¹ Court records from the period of 1684–1686 indicate a courthouse, jail, and ordinary were under construction. A stable also was built for the commissioner’s use, and stores and other commercial buildings likely were established along the colonial-era route of present-day Route 3. County records also indicate that John Minor owned land on the south side of the court square where there was a brick storehouse, kitchen, and stables. The latter may have been the stables ordered by the Court in 1686: “John Minor was directed to build a stable 20 feet long by 12 feet wide at the Court House.”⁸²

In 1707, a new courthouse replaced the 1680s building and served the county through the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In planning for the new courthouse, the county justices proposed moving the location from the Court House village to Vaulx Court, the property of Robert Vaulx located about six miles to the northwest, but citizens objected to the new site as less convenient to the majority of the county’s inhabitants.⁸³ Therefore, when a new brick courthouse, measuring 36 feet long and 20 feet wide, was erected by John Garner, it remained at the Court House village site.

The second courthouse at the site served the county through the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It was there that many revolutionary ideas took hold and several important actions occurred, including adoption of Richard Henry Lee’s 1774 resolution to assist Bostonians whose port had been closed by the British government, and the 1775 resolution denouncing the Colonial Governor’s seizure of the powder magazine in Williamsburg. Such acts inevitably placed Westmoreland County and its residents at the fore of the American Revolution. Richard Henry Lee, of Stratford Hall, had been the author of the 1766 Leedstown Resolutions, adopted at a meeting held in the port town of Leedstown on Westmoreland’s Rappahannock shore. The resolutions were a protest against the British Crown’s imposition of new taxes and stamp duties on certain materials as a means to repay debt incurred during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The Leedstown Resolutions were instrumental in galvanizing opposition to the 1765 Stamp Act and shaping public opinion throughout the colonies towards revolution.⁸⁴ When the colonies formally entered into war against the British, Lee and his brother Francis Lightfoot Lee, signed the Declaration of Independence while Westmoreland County native George Washington commanded the Continental Army.

Although Westmoreland County landowners were slaveholders during the Colonial period, the county also had a significant Free Black population. The enslaved population were brought to the area primarily to work on the large tobacco plantations that lined the peninsula. The earliest mention of enslaved residents in the county is noted in the 1658-1659 County Order Book. In the 1670s, colonists transported slaves to the colony to lay claim to tracts of land under the headrights system. In the late seventeenth century, county

⁸⁰ Norris, 113; Westmoreland County Order Book 1675-1688:145 (December 11, 1678).

⁸¹ The Town of Montross received a charter from the General Assembly in 1852.

⁸² Westmoreland Court Records 1675/6-1688/9:519. The stables were not, however, secure, as Lounsbury notes that in 1691, while the justices were in session, their saddles were stolen from the stables (Westmoreland County Order Book 1690-1698:10a, February 25, 2691).

⁸³ Mrs. A.E. Carver, 2210. About 1900, many residents backed the idea of moving the county courthouse and clerk’s office to Mount Holly, located seven miles east of Montross. That plan also was dropped, and the Clerk of the Court solicited bids for repair of the existing courthouse at Montross. See Pitts, “Early Westmoreland County,” 68-69

⁸⁴ Tayloe W. Murphy, Jr., “A Brief History of Westmoreland County and Stratford Hall” in *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. LIII, No. 1 (December) 2003:6308.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

records include a few documented releases and writs of manumission for slaves, and other such transactions may have occurred privately. Many of the freed residents became tenants on the plantations where they were formerly enslaved. For a period in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries it became unlawful to manumit slaves without court approval.⁸⁵

During the American Revolution, some enslaved men found refuge with the British forces serving as guides and soldiers. Some slaves who fought with the American colonists were promised freedom in return for their service—a promise that was not always honored. Free Black men also fought on the side of the colonists, among them were Bennett and James McCoy [also, McKoy], free men (probably brothers) from Westmoreland County. Bennett McCoy served in the Army for three years starting in 1777, participated in several major battles, and reenlisted with the 15th Virginia Regiment until the end of the war. James McCoy rendered guard service on the Potomac River from 1777 to 1778. Each of the McCoys received a pension for his service.⁸⁶

Free Blacks in the Colonial period were primarily farmers, but also fished, or were teachers and preachers. It has been noted that the Northern Neck area historically was an environment that fostered the increase of Black watermen.⁸⁷ While serving on the large plantations, many acquired skills that could be parlayed into an occupation, such as carpentry, cooperage, milling, and blacksmithing. The status as “free,” however, was relative and most Free Blacks had limited rights and privileges that were continually contracted by the slaveholding patriarchy that was wary of insurrection. Yet, some of Westmoreland County’s most prominent citizens provided for their slaves to be manumitted through wills and other processes. In his will, Robert Carter III of Nomini Hall, who was the county’s largest slaveholder, stated his desire that a certain number of his slaves be manumitted over a 20-year period and lands rented to them for their provision. Carter’s heirs thwarted much of this plan.⁸⁸ Kinsale native Regina Gaskins Baylor, who was interviewed for this nomination, traces her lineage back to two of Carter’s manumitted slaves: Daniel Wilson (freed 1792) and Judith Wilson, his wife (freed 1793).⁸⁹

Several jail buildings have been built in Montross and have generally occupied the same site northeast of the courthouse. The earliest jail, built in 1686, was replaced in the early 1700s about the time the new courthouse was built, and remained in use through the mid-eighteenth century. In 1749, the county engaged William Walker, a native of Westmoreland County and a prominent builder in the area, to build two new frame prisons (one for debtors and one for felons). Possibly the most notable prisoner at the Montross jail was Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee III of Stratford Hall, who, despite his status in the community and state, was incarcerated between 1808 and 1809 for outstanding debt.⁹⁰

⁸⁵ Norris, 523-542. Freedom could be obtained by serving out the terms of an indenture, being born of a free mother, an act of manumission, emancipation for an act of service, purchasing one’s own or another’s freedom, and entering the state as a free person of color.

⁸⁶ Norris, 589; Virginia Historical Highway Marker, “McCoy Revolutionary War Soldiers,” JT-20, 2001. Marker located near intersection of Sandy Point Road and Cople Highway, Kinsale.

⁸⁷ Norris, 544.

⁸⁸ Norris, 542-543. William Bernard was another county resident whose will included provisions of manumission for his slaves.

⁸⁹ Regina Gaskins Baylor, Personal Communication, December 1, 2022.

⁹⁰ Norris, 195-197; Pitts, “Jails,” 2002, 5-6.; Lounsbury, 211-212, 252-253. Lounsbury notes that in 1749, Westmoreland County built two separate prison buildings: one for felons and one for debtors. The latter was slightly more commodious with slightly larger, heated cells. In Westmoreland Court House, the debtors’ prison was 14-feet square, and the felons’ prison was 12-feet square. Lounsbury, 252-253. No doubt, given his status in the community, Lee was provided with additional accommodations. It was during his incarceration that he wrote his two volume *Memories of the War in the Southern Department of the United States* (published 1812).

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State

Early Federal Period through Mid-Nineteenth Century

Following the American Revolution, slaveholding continued to be an important part of the economic system in Virginia and in the Northern Neck. In 1782, there were 410 slaveholders in the county and 4,536 enslaved persons. A dozen or so plantation owners held 50 more slaves each, but most landowners held four or fewer slaves. In the late eighteenth century, laws required counties to maintain a register of Free Black inhabitants, although registration was not uniformly complied with or enforced. Only three such registers exist for Westmoreland County; family names of early Free Black families include Ashton, Henry, Mahoney, McKoy [also, McCoy], Newman, and Tate.

Westmoreland Court House remained centered around the courthouse and its ancillary structures. Around 1825, a new brick jail replaced the 1749 jail buildings. A rough sketch floorplan for the 1825 jail depicts a two-story building that was 36 feet wide and 16 feet deep (Figure 17). The four cells had eight-light windows that likely were covered by metal grilles. That building was destroyed by fire in 1888, and soon thereafter a new jail was constructed that was one story in height, fireproof, and held four cells. It was not, however, escape-proof, and a new jail would replace it in the early 1900s.

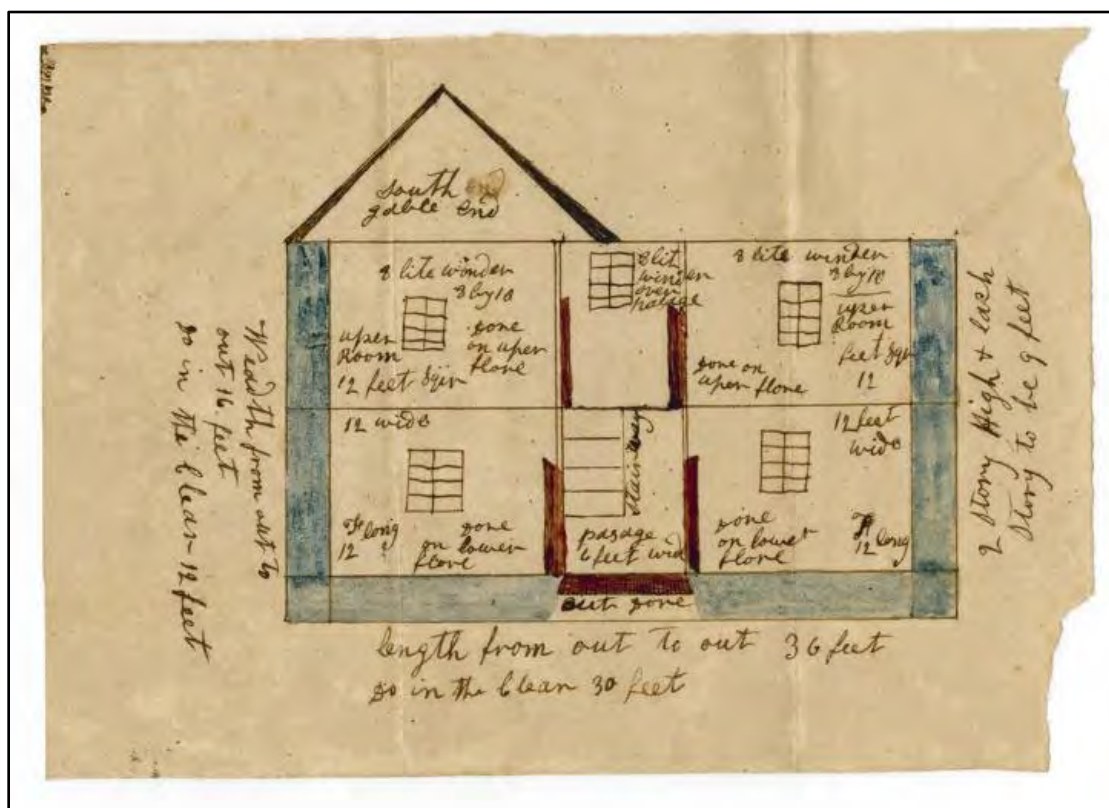


Figure 17. Sketch of proposed 1825 jail for Westmoreland County, VA. Source: Westmoreland County, VA, Loose Papers, May 22, 1826, Library of Virginia.

In 1800, a clerk's office stood at the southwest corner of Route 3 and Court Square/Polk Street. The clerk's office remained in that building until about 1902, when those functions were moved into a wing of the new courthouse.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

During the War of 1812, as part of their push to Washington, D.C., the British wreaked havoc throughout the Northern Neck. Advancing along the Potomac River, British troops often made landing attacks in the creeks and bays by day, plundering farms and taking slaves, then retreated to their ships at night. Landing on Nomini Creek in the summer of 1814, British soldiers marched towards the courthouse, taking possession of it on July 25. British harassment in the area peaked in August when British soldiers forced Westmoreland militiamen, who had expended their ammunition, to retreat. The British burned houses in and around the port town of Kinsale. As in the Revolutionary War, some of the county's enslaved population aided the invading troops by sharing their knowledge of the waterways and land routes. The British troops eventually advanced on to Washington, D.C., where they burned the White House and other buildings later that month⁹¹

Several years after the Revolution, the 1707 courthouse building, which had been unsatisfactory for several years, underwent replacement. In 1818, the Westmoreland justices ordered the construction of a new courthouse and engaged builder Ethelwald Sanford (also seen as Sandford) for the project. For \$500 the court sold the old courthouse to Sanford "to use and dispose of as he pleases;" Sanford may have reused some of the materials in the new building. Records indicate that the new building opened for court in 1823.

There are three brick houses in Montross that were built during the Federal period and reflect the symmetry associated with that style. These well-preserved examples include Mont Calm (263-0006, 15527 Kings Highway), constructed about 1810, the oldest portion of which is the two-story, side-passage section that is covered by a side-facing gable roof with paired interior end chimneys. Early nineteenth-century owners of the property included William Young Sturman and James Henry Sisson; William N. Walker purchased the property in 1871 and the house remained in the Walker family for 80 years. The Brick House (263-0004, 15614 Kings Highway), constructed about 1820, is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay wide dwelling likely built by the Sisson family and later home to Dr. George Mann, a dentist. The Hutt House (263-5036, 15943 Kings Highway), constructed about 1830, began as a two-story, three-bay-wide, side-passage brick house (later expanded) that was built by County Clerk William Hutt on land he purchased from William R. Sisson.⁹²

During the mid-nineteenth century, religious congregations organized in Montross and began to erect church buildings in town. County Court Order Books show that, until the mid-nineteenth century, religious congregations met in the courthouse. In 1849, the Westmoreland Court allowed trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States to erect a frame building on the north side of the court square (Lot 2). The frame church was consecrated in 1850 and the same year, the Virginia Diocese approved creation of the Montross Parish in Westmoreland County. In the 1880s, that building was used by a Baptist congregation and in the early twentieth century was replaced by a bank building.

Until the mid-eighteenth century, the county seat was known as Westmoreland Court House. On February 17, 1852, an act of the General Assembly changed the town's name to "Montross." Most county historians relate that the new name was derived from a farm (adjoining the courthouse location) and/or a ship of the same name. The farm/ship was owned by Irish merchant, William Black, who lived in Westmoreland in the 1750s.⁹³

⁹¹ Norris, 357-358.

⁹² Norris, 245, 249; Wolf, 87, 89; Westmoreland County Deed Book 39:5; Pitts, "In the Early Days Around Montross," 2000:17, 28, 46.

⁹³ Pitts, "Early Westmoreland County," August 2002:15-16; Norris, 76. For a discussion of the possible derivation of the Montross name see Mary R. Miller, *Place-Names of the Northern Neck of Virginia, from John Smith's 1606 map to the present* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1983).

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

In 1884, church trustees of the Episcopal congregation purchased a .5-acre parcel on the south side of Kings Highway east of the courthouse site as a site for a new church building. In 1889, the new church, known as St. James Episcopal Church (263-0002, 15870 Kings Highway) was consecrated. The present building is the same building, however, about 1950, the church was given a brick veneer cladding laid in a six-course Flemish bond variant. A cemetery stands behind the church and encompasses the earlier Sisson family graveyard, which also was conveyed to the church.

About the same time that the St. James congregation was building near the court square, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, purchased property from Joseph S. Lyell to erect a frame church and cemetery.⁹⁴ The first church building, constructed about 1848, was sold and relocated; by 1890, a new frame church was built on the former site. That frame building stood until 1971, when the present Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church (263-5038-0054, 16340 Kings Highway) was erected at the site; the building retains the 1950 brick Sunday School wing erected on the rear of the earlier frame church.⁹⁵

Civil War/Reconstruction

In 1860, Westmoreland County's population comprised 3,400 Whites, 3,700 enslaved persons, and 1,200 Free Blacks. As noted, the county historically had a large population of Free Black inhabitants, who worked and farmed alongside Whites. Inez Selden Johnson, who wrote about the county's Black history in the county's tercentennial history book, states that historically, "free people and their families were generally willing to lend a hand to the white owner of the land from whom they rented or on whose land they lived. This made the blacks indispensable to the less affluent landowners, who were unable to afford sufficient slaves, or any slaves." As a result, Johnson writes, an interdependence grew between Black and White inhabitants, although social barriers remained firmly in place. In 1860, there were nine Free Black landowners in the county; by 1900, there were 343 Black landowners, reflecting a shift in the rural economy in which Black farmers owned the land on which they farmed. African-American rural communities, often centered around churches, also began to develop in the county during this time, but not within the town limits of Montross.⁹⁶

When Virginia seceded from the Union in 1861, Westmoreland County organized several military units that fought with the Confederacy. Again, due to the county's strategic location along the Rappahannock River and the Potomac River, and mere miles from the United States capital, the area was often raided by Union troops, either foraging or capturing Confederates on leave or otherwise away from their units. No major battles were fought within the county, and Montross appears to have been spared any catastrophic loss of its records due to burning and enemy occupation.

Following the Civil War, Montross resumed its role as a commercial area serving the local rural residents, as well as maintaining its role as the county seat. Fishing, farming, and timbering were the primary economic engines that drove Westmoreland's postwar recovery. Transportation of goods and people still relied on boats, steamers, and wagons. The immediate effect of the loss of the enslaved workforce was felt in the surrounding rural environment and some of the large antebellum plantations began to be divided into smaller farms that could be worked and maintained with a smaller, family workforce. Large-acre farms at the edges of the Montross historic district reflect this pattern including Woodbury (263-5028, 16909 Kings Highway), which was formerly part of the Windsor plantation, The Brick House, and Mont Calm.

⁹⁴ Westmoreland County Deed Book 32:465. The .5-acre cemetery parcel was purchased from Lyell's son, Charles.

⁹⁵ Norris, 486.

⁹⁶ Norris, 550; Clapp, 6315.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

During the last decades of the nineteenth century, new construction in the village included two new church buildings and several commercial buildings. A review of Chataigne's *Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer* for 1880/1881 provides a snapshot of the economic activity occurring in Montross at that time. In addition to the courthouse, clerk's office, and jail, there were five general merchandise stores in operation, one saloon, and one hotel operated by W.H. Sanford. Other businesses in operation in Montross at the time included a wagonmaker, saddler, two blacksmiths, and one shoemaker. Reflecting the status of the town as the county seat, two lawyers had offices in Montross. The post office also was noted, as were Chandler's Grist Mill (later Montross Roller Mill) and the office of Dr. W.H. Fairfax, physician. Four principal farmers in Montross were Elizabeth Storke (2,574 acres), M.F. Sanford (501 acres), W.H. Sanford (671 acres) [N.B. the Sanfords owned parcels of the Brick House Farm], and D.S. Wharton (1,000 acres). Information in the gazetteer indicates that Montross was the site of several businesses that supported area residents with such agricultural-related industries as a tanyard, wagonmakers, and saddle shops. By comparison, only one other wagonmaker, J.S. Johnson of Templeman's Crossroads, was listed in the directory. Likewise, the community of Hague was an active center with several lawyers, general merchants, a saddler, and blacksmith. The county also saw the rise of canneries during the 1880s and 1890s. These factories, primarily canning tomatoes, were located at waterfront ports until about 1910, when canneries moved inland with the arrival of motorized trucking and improved roadways; towns also provided easier access to labor pools.⁹⁷

Residences in the Montross Historic District that date to the late nineteenth century reflect vernacular forms enhanced with classically inspired details and Victorian-era details. These frame dwellings are two stories in height and feature a gable-front and side-wing form, resulting in a T-shaped plan. Most detail is to be found in gable end eaves and on porches that extend along the side wing sections.

Although no schools dating to the nineteenth century are extant in Montross, it was during this time that the county educational system expanded under the 1870 Ruffner Bill.⁹⁸ Beginning in 1870, Westmoreland schools, had nearly 800 children enrolled in its public schools (White and Black students). Some White students were privately tutored or attended small privately operated schools in the county. A private school was operated at Windsor into the early 1900s. The schools for African-American students initially were taught by White teachers; as the years progressed, however, African-American teachers were hired and by 1892-93 there were at least seven African-American teachers in the county. Attendance levels continued to increase. As more and more students moved beyond the primary school level, Westmoreland leaders turned their attention to the construction of secondary or high schools, but that would not occur until the early 1900s.⁹⁹

⁹⁷ W. Buren Pitts, "Westmoreland Canneries," 2001:3. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross.

⁹⁸ In 1870, the General Assembly elected the General Assembly elected William Henry Ruffner superintendent of public instruction. Ruffner drafted a bill, that was passed by the General Assembly and signed by Virginia Governor Gilbert C. Walker, to create the state board of education, empower it to appoint all county school superintendents in the state, and set qualifications, duties, and salaries for superintendents, teachers, and school trustees. The bill enabled counties to levy taxes to provide additional revenue to support the county's schools. Ruffner's bill also required racial segregation of the schools. For in-depth discussion see Marianne Julienne and Brent Tarter, "Establishment of the Public School System in Virginia" Encyclopedia Virginia, Virginia Humanities, December 13, 2021. Accessed online at the Encyclopedia Virginia website on November 16, 2022, at: <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/public-school-system-in-virginia-establishment-of-the/>.

⁹⁹ Kathryn A. Miller, HaAR "Survey of Architectural Resources in Westmoreland County, Virginia," 2001:25.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Twentieth Century

By the turn of the twentieth century, the old 1820s courthouse was in need of repair. Some residents sought to move the county seat to Mount Holly on Nomini Creek and about seven miles east of Montross. The Board of Supervisors, possibly persuaded by the high cost of such a move, decided that the courthouse would remain in Montross. In 1900, the county hired the B.F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company, headed by Bartholomew F. Smith and located in Washington, D.C., “for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the county Court House and Clerk’s Office at Montross.” About the same time, Smith’s firm completed courthouses for Accomack (1899), Northampton (1899), and Northumberland (1900) counties, all employing similar architectural characteristics and focused on being fireproof. The project resulted in a substantially new building that included fireproof record rooms.¹⁰⁰ A 1937 history on the courthouse states that the 1823 courthouse—a one-story, Flemish bond, gable-roofed building—was incorporated into Smith’s building; however, it appears that Smith erected a completely new building, which bore similarities to the one Smith built in Northumberland County. Historical images from c. 1900 show it as a rather unadorned brick Romanesque Revival building with a hipped roof, flared eaves with brackets and a large central dormer with a pyramidal roof and triple arched windows. The new courthouse was larger than its predecessor, allowing the Clerk’s office to be moved from the separate building on the east side of the court square into the courthouse itself.¹⁰¹

In 1911, the county supervisors engaged the Pauly Jail Building Co. of St. Louis to construct a “modern two-story jail” at the site of the former jail across the street from the courthouse. The previous jail was notorious for its inability to securely confine prisoners, who newspaper articles announced had escaped. In the late 1930s or early 1940s, that jail building (263-5030) was moved slightly east of its original site to its present location.¹⁰² The new building appeared to be one story in height, but on the interior held cells stacked atop one another, for a total of four cells. Although still standing, the building currently is unused.

Representing the early twentieth century expansion of the town and the presence of the automobile in everyday lives of rural Virginians is the Smallwood Motor Company. Around 1904, the former clerk’s office, which stood southeast of the courthouse, was repaired and rented to Dr. M.W. Walker who used the building for his offices and operated a drugstore on the first floor. In 1908, the building was the first home of the Bank of Montross. The building was demolished in 1925 the lot was sold to R. Flynn Smallwood, who built automobile showroom and the site. Smallwood operated his motor company through the Great Depression and sold cars made by manufacturers including Ford, Essex, and Crosley. Cars entered the interior through doors on the northeast side. A canopy supported by brick piers and ornamented with a decorative railing extended out to cover cars as they took on fuel. The canopy was removed in the mid-twentieth century. During World War II, the building housed the offices of the Selective Service and the Rations boards. The rooms housing these government agencies survive and appear to have been added in the rear section of the second floor at this time. Smallwood built a new garage on another lot and sold the building in 1944 to Mr. and Mrs. Littlefield who operated a drugstore with a bar situated in the rear. In 1946, Lester Miller purchased the building and continued to operate it as a drugstore and soda fountain. He sold the structure to Hugh Sisson who established the Wakefield Furniture Store. The Sisson family

¹⁰⁰ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997); John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia’s Historic Courthouses* (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1995), 166-169; *The Manufacturers’ Record*, Vol. 37, Issue 8 (March 15) 1900:136. Several counties in Virginia and North Carolina hired the B.F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company to design new jails and courthouses, and to build fireproof additions to existing buildings. Wells and Dalton indicate that Smith was the architect for most of the firm’s work. The firm was active from 1897 to 1912.

¹⁰¹ Mrs. A.E. Carver, 2211; Norris, 119.

¹⁰² Wells and Dalton; Pitts, “Jails,” 2002:10-16.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

operated this business for over fifty years. In 2009 the owners relocated the business elsewhere and sold the property to the Westmoreland County Museum, which uses the building as annex.¹⁰³

The canning factories located near Westmoreland's shipping wharves began to move inland around 1910. In Montross, the Jenkins and Chandler factory, formerly located on Porter Lane on the east end of the historic district, canned tomatoes, as well as fruits and vegetables in the early 1900s. Initially operated by Arthur E. Carver and J.P. Jenkins, Mr. Jenkins took over the operations about 1905, and later his son headed the factory. In 1917, Carver, J.P. Jenkins, and E.C. Jenkins opened a new "up-to-date" factory at the site, which operated under the name Montross Packing Co. until it closed in 1930.¹⁰⁴

As businesses flourished in Montross, a need for a local banking institution became apparent. Previously, merchants dealt with banks in Alexandria, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, which were accessed by the steamboat lines. Deposits were sent via the boat's purser (or other reliable crewman), and postcard receipts were returned via mail.¹⁰⁵ The first bank established in the village was the Bank of Montross. On behalf of several Westmoreland County businessmen, John S. Bonebrake, Montross postmaster, wrote to Egbert Martin Carver and his son Arthur E. Carver, who were active in the banking business in West Virginia. In 1908, A.E. Carver arrived in Montross and, after touring the county with prospective stockholders, reached an agreement to establish a bank.¹⁰⁶ The stockholders appointed a board of directors that included Carver, who also served as cashier and later as president. The bank's first home was the former clerk's office at the corner of Kings Highway and Polk Street (no longer extant). In 1926, the bank moved to the prominent southeast corner lot at the sharp turn in Route 3 across from the courthouse. That building, though small, was notable for the angled front elevation that corresponded to the curve in the road. The Bank of Montross survived the Great Depression and loaned money for local projects, such as the construction of the Montross Theatre (1948). The bank "depended on its relationship with original investors and accounts from the agricultural and business community" and by the mid-1950s had assets of over \$1.5 million.¹⁰⁷

The corner building served the bank until 1965 when it built a larger, Colonial Revival-style building further east on Kings Highway in what the newspaper referred to as "the center of the business part of this growing town."¹⁰⁸ The architect for the new bank building at 15960 Kings Highway (263-5038-0051) was Horace G. Freeman (1915-2010). Freeman, who was based in Richmond, formed a partnership with Adolph O. Budina in 1954. The firm completed designs for small banks, office buildings, and municipal libraries throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Upon its completion, the Colonial Revival-style design for the new Bank of Montross won the Westmoreland County Garden Club's award for superior architectural design.¹⁰⁹ At the time, Ashby R. Carver, A.E. Carver's son, was the bank president. That building, which stands, is now a branch of Citizens and Farmers (C&F) Bank (Figure 18).

¹⁰³ Worsham, 2011. Copy on file, Department of Historic Resources, Archives, Richmond, VA.

¹⁰⁴ Pitts, Canneries, 2001:12; *Northern Neck News*, October 13, 1916.

¹⁰⁵ Arthur E. Carver III, "Depression? What Depression?," Draft manuscript, Nov.10, 2022.

¹⁰⁶ Norris, 641-642.

¹⁰⁷ Norris, 642.

¹⁰⁸ John R. Campbell ["Jack Frost"], "News of Newland," *Northern Neck News*, April 1, 1965: Section 1, Page 3.

¹⁰⁹ "New Bank Building Progresses," *Northern Neck News*, July 16, 1964:1; "News: Virginia," *Virginia Monthly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects* Vol.29 No. 8 (August 1955):53; Norris, 642. The firm had its offices in the Federal Building on Main Street in downtown Richmond. In 1963, Budina & Freeman served as associate architects for Philip Johnson's WRVA building on Church Hill in Richmond, which is considered one of the city's most visible and important mid-20th century architectural landmarks. In 1983, the building won the AIA's "Test of Time" award. In 1970, John C. Morgan joined the firm, which continues today as Freeman Morgan Architects. Accessed from the Freeman Morgan Architects website on November 29, 2022 at <https://www.freemanmorgan.com/firm/story/>.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

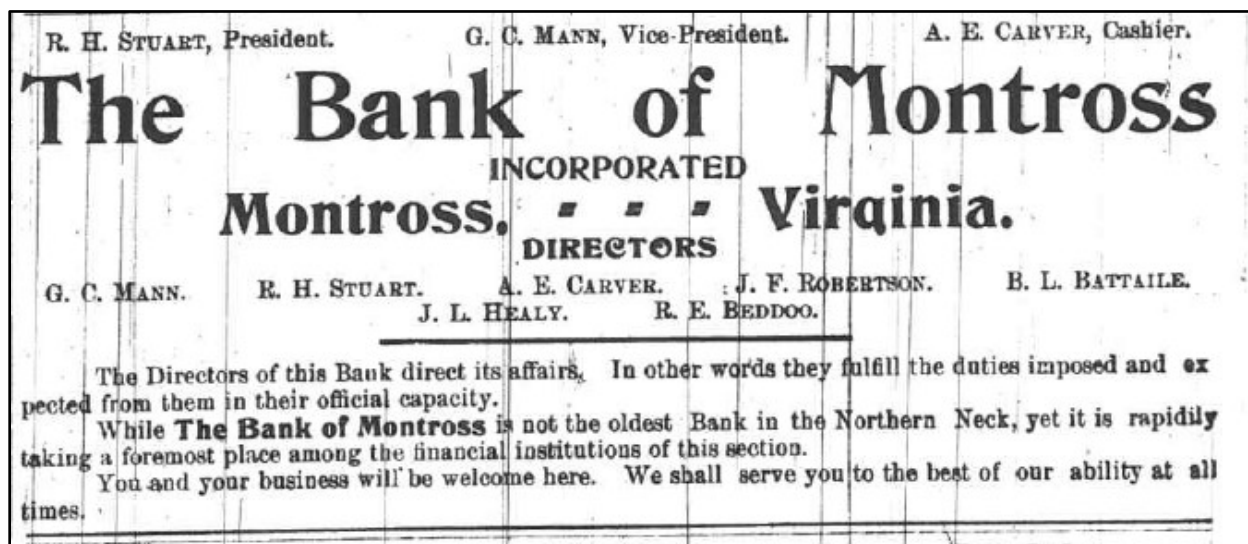


Figure 18. Advertisement for Bank of Montross, 1909. Source: Northern Neck News, January 8, 1909.

In 1913, the People's Bank of Montross was founded by some of the same businessmen who established the Bank of Montross. The bank was first housed in a building at the corner of Rectory Road and Route 3, and in 1924 erected the one-story, Greek Revival-style brick building on Lot 2 of the public bounds at 105 Court Square (263-5031), presently the office of the voter registrar. In 1967, the bank's new building at 15648 Kings Highway (263-5038-0043) was completed. At present, a branch of the Blue Ridge Bank occupies the building.

The most architecturally distinctive industrial building and historically one of the most important to the local economy is the 1932 Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., plant.¹¹⁰ In 1920, a group of Westmoreland County businessmen established the Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc. With the advent of Prohibition in the United States, which ended the legal sale of alcoholic beverages, the investors anticipated an increased demand for soft drinks. The founding board of directors included Dr. W.N. Chinn, Frank M. Thrift, Blake T. Newton, H. Stafford Murphy, and Arthur E. Carver, Sr. The men put up \$20,000 of capital stock to raise money for their venture. Mr. Murphy was key to the company since he held a contract from Washington Coca-Cola Bottling Co. for franchise rights to bottle and sell Coke in the four counties on the lower Northern Neck, and later west towards Fredericksburg. At the time, there were about a half dozen small bottling companies on the Northern Neck. By the end of 1920, one of those companies—the Kilmarnock Bottling Co.—joined with the Northern Neck Co. to produce bottled carbonated beverages. In addition to Coca-Cola, the plant bottled such varieties as Cherry Blossoms and Grape Julep (produced from concentrated extracts and carbonated water) and Indian Rock Ginger Ale (Carver's own recipe blended with pure ginger root juice and carbonated water)—a forerunner of Northern Neck Ginger Ale, produced by the plant beginning in 1926. These beverages were produced in 6-, 9-, and eventually 12-ounce bottles. Later twentieth-century modernization also led to production of 16-ounce plasti-shield glass bottles and two-liter PET (polyethylene terephthalate) recyclable plastic containers. The plant was known always to be on the leading edge of industry with its products and packaging.

¹¹⁰ The author thanks A.E. Carver III for sharing his manuscripts and recollections of the founding and production of the Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc. Arthur E. Carver III, "A Brief History of Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc (1920-2001)." Nov. 1, 2022 Draft. Manuscript provided by Mr. Carver.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Initially, the plant was located at McGuire's Wharf on the Potomac River in a frame building and relied on steamboat routes to connect the company to its suppliers and dealers located in Baltimore and other cities. In 1923, Carver moved the bottling plant from McGuire's Wharf to Montross, which was known for its artesian waters.¹¹¹ In 1928, the company also closed the Kilmarnock plant and consolidated its production in Montross. The company initially worked out of a one-story, gable-front, frame building on the north side of Route 3 near Smallwood's Motor Company. (After the bottling plant moved out of the building, Ira Mothershead opened a farmer's supply store in the frame building. In 1928, the building was razed.)

Even after the company's move to Montross, it continued to rely on shipments by steamboat to Carter's Wharf on the Rappahannock River and to haul those shipments to Montross by horse and wagon. The Northern Neck, at the time, was tied together by a series of dirt roads which cleaved through cornfields and tunneled through lonely forests. The paths were dusty in the summer, muddy in the winter. In cold weather, the ruts would freeze as stiff as rails. When two cars met in the same frozen track, A.E. Carver, Jr., recalled, both drivers were forced to stop, get out, throw their wool lap blankets over the tracks to get out of them and then straddle the track with their right wheels on the shoulder of the road.

Mr. Carver, Jr., acknowledged that the growth of the bottling company was directly tied to the improvement of the roads. Tarred roads appeared on the Northern Neck about 1935. Carver noted that by 1935, Route 3 had been tarred from Montross to the top of Chinn's Mill Hill in Lancaster County. From there to Kilmarnock, it was dirt except through Lively and Lancaster [Court House], where the part through town was paved.

Defying the prevailing financial advice, Carver decided to construct a two-story brick building following the "Standard Plant No. 3" design issued by The Coca-Cola Company during the Great Depression. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Robert W. Woodruff, who was Coke's president from 1923 to 1985, urged the company to move towards refinement and standardization of all elements of its business. By 1931, there were over 1,300 Coca-Cola bottling plants in the United States. Standardization provided quality control and a recognizable image for the company, which was important as the company began to advertise in national magazines. Standardization efforts were applied to everything from uniforms and letterhead to graphics and bottling plant architecture. As one history notes:

Many bottlers applied the architectural standards to their new facilities because of the stand design's beauty, efficiency and practicality. These beautiful buildings still proudly carry the Coca-Cola identification marquee even though their use as bottling plants and distribution centers ended many years ago. But, despite the suggestions from The Coca-Cola Company for standardization in architectural design, expressions of individualism in the designs for the new bottling plants was commonplace.¹¹²

The Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co.'s board of directors approved the new building project in January 1931. Local contractor J.S. Parker completed the building and James C. Lamb of Richmond County installed the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems. The building's bricks came from the Lillian Lumber Co., located in Burgess in Northumberland County on the Northern Neck. The two-story, brick building was 30-feet-wide and 70-feet long and was covered by a hipped roof. The bright, sanitary interior of the factory featured white walls and brick wainscoting. The standardized design exhibited notable classically inspired details including large modillion blocks on the cornice and a wide, rusticated entablature surround

¹¹¹ Williams, 26.

¹¹² "The Architecture of Refreshment," accessed online at The Martin Guide to Vintage Coca-Cola Memorabilia 1886-1969, <https://www.earlycoke.com/architecture-of-refreshment>, on November 17, 2022.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

at the front entrance. A bas relief panel on the front of the building depicted a Coca-Cola bottle and the company's cursive logo. The large plate glass windows and multi-paned transoms featured on the building's front (southern facing) elevation later proved problematic for the factory; the large windows allowed in abundant sunlight, which raised the temperature in the bottling room at the front of the building. In 1999, a mural painted by Georgia-artist Dianna Snell featuring a depiction of the Coca-Cola Company's 1953 registered advertising artwork of the "Sprite Boy" was placed over the window openings.

The plant's open house, held on May 12, 1932, was a huge local celebration featuring music by James Wharton and his orchestra from Kilmarnock, and attended by local residents and school students from Westmoreland and Richmond counties. A sign outside the factory stating "Visitors Welcome" attested to the pride the company had in its facility.

The bottling company enjoyed great success and over the years increased the size of its building and replaced its equipment with state-of-the-art machinery. World War II, however, dampened all growth. Workers were called for military duty and ingredients, especially sugar and tin, were rationed. Deliverymen even picked up used bottle caps ("crowns") that were sent back to the manufacturer for cleaning and refurbishment. During World War II, company secretary Marjorie Richardson, wrote a weekly newsletter "Coca-Cola Chatter" that was mailed to all former employees serving in the military. Despite shortages, Mr. Carver, Sr., continued to deliver much-needed school supplies, such as pencils and rulers, to Northern Neck elementary school students, many of whom recall his visits were "like Christmas." These efforts illustrate the personal touch and influence of the company had on the quality of life in Montross and the surrounding community.

After the end of the war, the company's production and sales once again flourished. "We couldn't sell it fast enough," Carver, Jr., recalled. In 1948, the company added a two-story addition to the Montross plant and added a garage and storage building in 1949. In 1962, an 80-foot-by-98-foot addition was constructed to the east side of the factory and boosted its production, and in 1973 another large addition was built to the rear (north end) of the plant's warehouse.

Carver, Sr. died in 1958, and his sons were elected to leadership positions in the company. Through the life of the company, four generations of the Carver family worked at the company. In 2001, after 83 years of Carver ownership, the company franchise was sold to an out-of-state interest that continued to operate the plant through 2014.¹¹³ In 2015, the Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc., acquired the franchise and moved bottling production to a plant in Sandston, in Henrico County, Virginia. At present, the Montross plant is not in use.

The Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co.'s importance to the local Montross community and the larger Northern Neck community was widely felt. In an area that was predominantly rural with primarily seasonal employment in seafood, farming, and timbering, and a high unemployment rate, the Northern Neck Bottling Co. thrived. In fact, despite sales disruptions including the Great Depression, World War II, a poor local road system, seasonal unemployment and low per capita income, introduction of new products and product sizes, the Northern Neck Coca-Cola consistently made more sales per capita in its franchise region than any other Coca-Cola bottler in the state.

¹¹³ The Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, Inc., was a stock company. Over the years as investors sold their stock, A.E. Carver, Sr. and A.E. Carver, Jr., who served as company officers and board members, repurchased many of those shares and held a controlling interest in the company.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Westmoreland County Museum and Library

The Westmoreland County Library and Museum, located at 43 Polk Street (263-5038-0074), is a significant cultural site on the Court Square and an important architectural resource in the historic district. The building stands west across the street from the courthouse and is a refined example of Colonial Revival-style architecture designed in 1938 by Richmond-based architect Clarence W. Huff, Jr. (1900-1986). Huff was born in Danville, Virginia, attended the Virginia Military Institute, and was a 1928 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture. He established an office in Richmond that was known at his death as Huff, Morris & Cox.¹¹⁴ In the 1930s, Mr. Huff executed several residential designs in Richmond's premiere neighborhood of Windsor Farms, which was known for the quality of its Tudor Revival- and Colonial Revival style designs.

A 1939 newspaper announcement of the planned Westmoreland County Museum stated that it would "present a most attractive appearance being an authentic reproduction of eighteenth-century architecture."¹¹⁵ The building is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay-wide structure, covered by a side-facing, slate-clad roof with paired exterior chimneys on each end. The building's fine brickwork, credited to local builder John W. Hennage (1910-1992), includes Flemish bond exterior walls, a sloped water table, exterior end double-shouldered and corbelled chimneys, and jack arches above the window and door openings.

The initial impetus for the building came from the Trustees of the Henry Hungerford Library, a name that dated to the early 1900s when books from Mr. Hungerford's Leedstown estate were donated to the town. The collection was placed in the Montross Agricultural High School, which burned in 1930, destroying the books. The insurance money collected by the trustees, enhanced by a donation from Ella J. Barnard (Hungerford's daughter), was used to purchase new books for a lending library. In June 1938 as discussions were underway for the new library, two trustees—Alice R. Carver and Kate H. Mason—recommended that the new building be expanded to serve as both a county museum and a library.

The desire for a county museum revolved around the local historical society, whose collections included local prehistoric and historic artifacts and an art collection that included the life-sized portrait of British Member of Parliament and colonial supporter, William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham (1768), painted by American artist Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827).¹¹⁶ The idea of a combined building was approved unanimously, and discussions then turned to the location of the new building. Although Mrs. Littlefield had donated a lot for the library (location not known), the trustees also had received approval from the County Board of Supervisors to erect the building "on land belonging to the county, near the Court House (sic)...across the road and nearly opposite the present side entrance to the Court House (sic)."¹¹⁷ In 1876,

¹¹⁴ Wells and Dalton.

¹¹⁵ "Westmoreland to have a Museum and Public Library," *Northern Neck News*, December 22, 1939.

¹¹⁶ The Peale portrait has an intriguing and interesting history that is detailed in Eric Langford's *The Allegorical Mr. Pitt (A Bicentennial Biography)* (Montross, VA: Langford, [1976?]). The painting was commissioned by several wealthy Westmoreland County gentlemen in 1768 and arrived in Westmoreland in 1769. The painting, which was too large to hang in the county courthouse at the time, was housed in the home of Richard Henry Lee, "Chantilly," until his death in 1794 when it was moved to Stratford Hall, then home to Henry Lee IV. In 1821 the portrait was moved to the new Westmoreland County Courthouse, then to Richmond for almost 50 years, and finally returned to the courthouse where it remained until 1941 when it was placed in the Westmoreland County Museum and Library. The portrait is credited with launching Peale's career as an American portraitist. See Charles Coleman Sellers, *Charles Willson Peale* (New York: Scribner, [1969]), 66-71 and Charles Coleman Sellers, *The Artist of the Revolution: The early life of Charles Willson Peale* (Hebron, CT: Feather and Good, 1939), 85-90.

¹¹⁷ Minutes, Meeting of the Trustees of the Henry Hungerford Library, June 4, 1938. Manuscripts on file at the Westmoreland County Museum Research Library, Montross, Virginia.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

the county's Confederate Monument had been erected on that site; in 1930, the monument was moved to its present location at the front of the courthouse, providing an open lot for the new museum.

Although they initially sought federal relief funds to assist in construction of the library and museum, the trustees determined to complete the building "regardless of whether the P[ublic] W[orks] A[dministration] grant is received or not."¹¹⁸ No grant was received, but funds for the building's construction and the associated garden were provided by Westmoreland County, the Virginia General Assembly, and through the efforts of the members of the Westmoreland Garden Club who sold handmade kitchen mittens, plants, and other items during the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week.¹¹⁹ By November 1938, Huff had been retained as the project's architect and by Spring 1939, construction was underway.

In 1942, as construction of the museum was completed and the interior equipped with furnishings, the County's Board of Supervisors asked the Westmoreland Garden Club to design and enhance the land around the building. The club sought out the skills of Richmond-based landscape architect Charles Freeman Gillette (1886-1969), who donated his time and garden designs for the project. During the 1920s and 1930s, Gillette made his reputation as the region's most astute designer of Colonial Revival-style landscapes. As Meade Palmer, FASLA, who worked in Gillette's office upon graduating from Cornell University, noted, Gillette's designs set a high standard of quality and he "established a regional style identified by an understated classicism and attention to detail.... He integrated architecture and the landscape in a manner that present day landscape architects profess but seldom achieve." Drawings for the Montross gardens have not been found in collections of the designer or the museum, but Gillette's association with the project is well documented through newspaper articles, club minutes, and biographers.¹²⁰ Like many of Gillette's gardens, the Presidents' Garden is a cultivated and manicured landscape adorned by manmade artifacts.

Gillette also assisted the club with locating a sculptor, Attilio Piccirilli (1866-1945), to create the busts of the three Westmoreland County natives who became U.S. Presidents (Washington, Madison, and Monroe) to adorn the garden. Although Gillette most often turned to Connecticut craftsman Kenneth Lynch for his garden urns and adornments, it is likely that he viewed the busts as "fine art" and, thus, chose Piccirilli whose family (father and six brothers) were well-known and respected sculptors with their studios in New York City. In addition to his work with other sculptors, including Daniel Chester French and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Piccirilli had completed works for such architects as Cass Gilbert, Henry Bacon, Bertram Goodhue, and Carrère and Hastings. Piccirilli's participation in the post-1895-fire restoration at the Rotunda at the University of Virginia with the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, his busts of Jefferson (after Houdon) and Monroe for the Virginia State Capitol, and his works for the Virginia Executive Mansion would have given Gillette personal knowledge of his work. The sculptor was, as one biographer noted, considered an "adopted son" of the Commonwealth.¹²¹

¹¹⁸ Minutes, Meeting of the Trustees of the Henry Hungerford Library, November 9, 1938. Manuscripts on file at the Westmoreland County Museum Research Library, Montross, Virginia.

¹¹⁹ *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 16, 1948; Hobbs, 2008.

¹²⁰ George C. Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette & Landscape Architecture in Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992), 150; Meade Palmer, Foreword to Longest, ix; "Darden to Dedicate Museum-Library Building at Montross, Westmoreland County, Sunday," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 16, 1948; Hobbs, 2008.

¹²¹ Thayer Tolles, ed. *American Sculpture in The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Vol. 2* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1999):512; Joseph Vincent Lombardo, *Attilio Piccirilli: Life of an American Sculptor* (New York: Pittman Publishing Corporation, 1944), 115ff, 213-220, 230.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Due to World War II, the dedication of the museum and library was delayed until 1948.¹²² The opening was an important event in the county and was attended by former Governor Colgate W. Darden, Jr., then president of the University of Virginia, State Senator Robert O. Norris, members of the Board of Supervisors, and local clergy, among others. The building, which at present is known as the Westmoreland County Museum, was the first purpose-built public library in the county and provided much-needed meeting space for local groups, housed the Red Cross during wartime, served as a visitors' center, and housed the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society's library, in addition to serving its original purpose as a museum. Its association with an architect, builder, landscape architect, and sculptor who were locally, regionally, and nationally well-regarded makes this resource one of the significant architectural contributors to the historic district.

In the early twentieth century, two important school buildings were constructed in or near Montross, further enforcing Montross's significance in the area of education. In 1930, the Washington and Lee High School was built for White students and included an agricultural curriculum. That building, and support buildings built later, stands on the south side of Route 3 on the east end of the historic district. Because schools at the time remained racially segregated, a separate school for African-American students was built east of town. The A.T. Johnson High School (NRHP listed, 1998) was built in 1937 and was one of the first African-American high schools built on the Northern Neck. Between 1966 and 1967, county schools were integrated, and all county students attended Washington and Lee High School.

A significant asset was added to the high school property in 1967 with the construction of the large, steel-frame combination gymnasium-auditorium building. Designed by the Washington, D.C. firm of Stevenson Flemer, Eason Cross, Harry Adreon, Associated Architects, the building received an Architectural Award of Excellence from the American Institute of Steel Construction. The jurors noted that "[t]he main body of the building is very finely designed. The exterior reveals its purpose and is a wonderful expression of what happens in the building. This is an extraordinarily honest design."¹²³ In 1968, the building's design also received an Award of Honor from the American Institute of Architects. The steel-and-glass building was conceived as a small coliseum to be used for graduations, tournaments, and other large gatherings. It was featured in a 1967 advertisement for its use of "Plexiglas"—a then-new solar glare and heat reducing building product. The expressive use of steel in the design distinguishes this building from the earlier Colonial Revival-style school building and, although altered, the gymnasium retains its overall form.

Residences built in the interwar years reflected nationally popular styles and forms including American Foursquare, Ranch, and bungalow houses. Two confirmed examples of prefabricated "kit" houses were erected in 1929. Stanley Dawson, the Agricultural Extension Agent for Westmoreland County, and his wife Georgia erected their Dutch Colonial Revival-style house at 15460 Kings Highway (263-5005). The house was one of Sears, Roebuck, and Co.'s "Van Jean" models. The Dawsons lived in the house for 70 years and the house retains significant original exterior and interior features. The one-story frame cottage at 16026 Kings Highway (263-5021) is an example of Sear's "Crescent" model. The house retains its distinctive

¹²² "The Westmoreland County Museum and Information Center: A Statement of Background, Operations and Objectives," n.d. Part of the Westmoreland County Garden Club Records in the collections of the Westmoreland County Museum Research Library, Montross, VA.

¹²³ "1967 Architectural Awards of Excellence," American Institute of Steel Construction, 1967, n.p. Eason Cross (1925-2016), FAIA, received a degree in architecture at Harvard University, where he studied under Walter Gropius. In 1954, Cross became associated with Charles M. Goodman and was a lead designer for the Modernist neighborhood Hollin Hills, where he also lived (DHR #029-5471, NRHP listed 2013). Prior to its dissolution in 1987, the firm of Cross and Adreon completed many highly regarded Modernist dwellings and residential community developments in Northern Virginia.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

front portico with its paired columns, open pediment and barrel-arched ceiling, and three-part windows. Original interior features also are intact.

Some of Montross' early twentieth century commercial buildings were occupied by new businesses or were repurposed during the mid- and late-twentieth century. Former service stations became offices, stores, restaurants, and cafes. The former Peoples Bank Building housed the Westmoreland County News and later became the county's Voter Registration office. Older buildings were rehabilitated to serve modern needs and incorporated more modern materials such as siding, shingle roofs and new windows.

Montross Historic District
Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia: Passed in 1852, in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Commonwealth. Richmond: William F. Ritchie, Public Printer, 1852.

Amrhine, Richard. "Montross Sears Home is Part of American History." *The Free Lance-Star*, September 25, 2015. Accessed on the Free Lance-Star website on October 11, 2021 at https://fredericksburg.com/lifestyles/house_and_home/montross-sears-home-is-part-of-american-history/article_3b962132-10dd-5309-94e3-45381cb7bec7.html.

"The Architecture of Refreshment." Accessed online at The Martin Guide to Vintage Coca-Cola Memorabilia 1886-1969 website on October 10, 2022 at <https://www.earlycoke.com/architecture-of-refreshment>.

Bird, Betty Bird. "Armstead T. Johnson School, DHR #096-0113." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2008. Copy on file, Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Burruss, Elizabeth Walker. "I Can Remember." *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. XIX (Dec) 1969: 1926-1931.

Burton, Cassandra. *African-American Education in Westmoreland County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, c.1999.

Campbell, John R. ["Jack Frost"]. "News of Newland." *Northern Neck News*, April 1, 1965.

Carver, Mrs. A.E. [Alice Robertson] Carver. "Westmoreland County Courthouses." *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. 21 (1971): 2208-2216.

Carver, Arthur E. III. "A Brief History of Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc (1920-2001)." Draft manuscript, Nov. 1, 2022. Copy provided by Author.

---. "Depression? What Depression?" Draft manuscript, Nov.10, 2022. Copy provided by Author.

Clapp, Virginia Harris Clapp. "Westmoreland County, Virginia Celebrating 350 Years." *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. LIII, No. 1 (December) 2003:6312-6319.

Craig, Robert M. "Beaux-Arts meets Southern Industry: The Coca-Cola Bottling Plants of Francis Palmer Smith." *Arris* Vol. 12 (2001):92-106.

---. "Francis Palmer Smith." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. Originally published July 31, 2002. Last modified May 13, 2016. Accessed online at the New Georgia Encyclopedia website on November 17, 2022 at <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/francis-palmer-smith-1886-1971/>.

"The Early History of St. James Church, Montross Parish, Westmoreland County." [1953]. Brochure in collections of Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, Montross, Virginia.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Green, Bryan Clark. "Rosenwald Schools in Virginia (DHR #012-5041)," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, [2003]. Copy on file, Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Hedelt, Rob. "Anticipation is high for new Washington and Lee School." *The Free Lance Star* August 24, 2019. Accessed online at the Free Lance-Star website on October 2, 2022 at https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/rob-hedelt-anticipation-is-high-for-new-washington-and-lee-school/article_f40d16d7-6ca3-5581-9363-624f40566379.html

Hobbs, Joyce P., Chairman, Presidents' Garden Committee of the Westmoreland Garden Club. Presentation made to the Friends of the Museum, May 4, 2008, at Montross. Transcript provided by the Westmoreland County Museum Research Library, Montross, Virginia.

Ingram, Orville. "Orville's World," archived Geocities website. [Oct 2009]. Accessed on December 13, 2022 at <https://www.geocities.ws/orvillei/montross.html>.

"Inn at Montross Receives John Paul Hanbury Award." *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. LXII (2012): 7558.

Isaac, Rhys. *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1982.

Julienne, Marianne and Brent Tarter. "Establishment of the Public School System in Virginia." Encyclopedia Virginia, Virginia Humanities, December 13, 2021. Accessed online at the Encyclopedia Virginia website on November 16, 2022 at: <https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/entries/public-school-system-in-virginia-establishment-of-the/>.

Langford, Eric. *The Allegorical Mr. Pitt (A Bicentennial Biography)*. Montross, VA: Langford, [1976?].

Lombardo, Joseph Vincent. *Attilio Piccirilli: Life of an American Sculptor*. New York: Pittman Publishing Corporation, 1944.

Longest, George C. *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette & Landscape Architecture in Virginia*. Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992.

Lounsbury, Carl R. *The Courthouses of Early Virginia: An Architectural History*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2005.

Miller, Kathryn A. Miller, HaAR. "Survey of Architectural Resources in Westmoreland County, Virginia." 2001. Copy on file, Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Miller, Mary R. *Place-Names of the Northern Neck of Virginia, from John Smith's 1606 map to the present*. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1983.

Murphy, Tayloe W., Jr. "A Brief History of Westmoreland County and Stratford Hall." *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. LIII, No. 1 (December) 2003:6307-6311.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

"News: Virginia." *Virginia Monthly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects* Vol.29 No. 8 (August 1955):53.

Norris, Walter Biscoe, Jr., ed. *Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1653-1983*. Montross, Virginia: Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors, 1983.

Northern Neck News [Warsaw, VA]

- 1936 "County Approves New Bond Issue." May 1.
1911 "Montross." March 31.
1911 "Montross." June 9.
1929 "Westmoreland to have a Museum and Public Library." December 22.
1964 "New Bank Building Progresses." July 16.

"Our New Society Headquarters." *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. LVIV (2009): 7088-7089.

Peters, John O. and Margaret T. Peters. *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1995.

Pitts, W[arner] Buren. "Early Westmoreland County, Virginia Court Houses and the Land Around Them." August 2002. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross, Virginia.
---. "In the Early Days Around Montross, Virginia—Did You Know That?" September 2000. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross, Virginia.
---. "Jails and Justice of Early Westmoreland County," April 6, 2002. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross, Virginia.
---. "Land Deeds and Records." January 2000. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross, Virginia.
---. "Westmoreland Canneries." 2001. Manuscript on file at the Westmoreland County Museum, Montross, Virginia.

Potomac Interest [Colonial Beach, VA]

1951 "The Montross Furniture Company, Located in the Littlefield Building in Montross, Virginia." March 29.

Rappahannock Record [Kilmarnock, VA]

- 1943 "Virginia Presidents' Garden Wins National Award." May 20.
1947 "New Montross Theatre Will Be Open Soon." May 22.

1986 "Walter Norris Lowery," Obituary. July 17.

Richmond News Leader [Richmond, VA]

1948 "[Montross Library." June 21.

Richmond Times-Dispatch [Richmond, VA]

- 1907 "Montross School Burns." April 5.
1948 "Darden to Dedicate Museum-Library Building at Montross, Westmoreland County, Sunday." June 16.

Salmon, Emily J. and Edward D.C. Campbell, Jr., eds. *The Hornbook of Virginia History*. Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia, 1994.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Sears, Roebuck and Co. "Sears Archives: Historic Homes: Images of Homes, 1927-1932." Accessed online on December 13, 2022 at: <http://searsarchives.com/homes/1927-1932.htm>.

Sellers, Charles Coleman. *The Artist of the Revolution: The early life of Charles Willson Peale*. Hebron, CT: Feather and Good, 1939.

---. *Charles Willson Peale*. New York: Scribner, [1969]

Siloam Baptist Church. "Church History," [ca.2013]. Accessed online at the Siloam Baptist Church website on November 23, 2022 at <https://siloambaptistchurch.org/church-history>.

Street, Elwood Street. "Westmoreland The Home of Great Americans!" Reprint from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in the *Northern Neck News*, May 22, 1942.

Tolles, Thayer, ed. *American Sculpture in The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Vol. 2*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1999.

Trustees of the Henry Hungerford Library. Meeting Minutes. Manuscripts on file at the Westmoreland County Museum Research Library, Montross, Virginia.

Virginia's Legislative Information System. "Charters: Montross" [2022]. Accessed online at the Division of Legislative Automated Systems website "Virginia's Legislative Information System" on November 28, 2022 at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/charters/montross/>.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

Westmoreland County Deed and Order Books, 1675/6ff. Copies on file, Office of the Clerk of the Court, Montross, Virginia. Also available on microfilm in the collections of the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

Williams, James Lawrence Basil. *An Economic and Social Survey of Westmoreland County*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia, 1936.

Wilson, John C. *Virginia's Northern Neck : a Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: Donning Co., 1984.

Wolf, Thomas A., ed. *Historic Sites in Virginia's Northern Neck & Essex County*. Warsaw, VA: Preservation Virginia, Northern Neck Branch, 2011.

Worsham, Gibson Worsham. "Smallwood Motor Company/Wakefield Building," Preliminary Information Form, 2011. Copy on file, Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Personal Communication

Baylor, Regina Gaskins, Kinsale native and historian.

Carver, Arthur E. III, Montross native and former owner Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.

Carver, Josephine Carver, Montross native and resident.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #263-5038

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 170

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A | Latitude: 38.0951466°N | Longitude: 76.8393995°W |
| B | Latitude: 38.0952819°N | Longitude: 76.8337812°W |
| C | Latitude: 38.0973092°N | Longitude: 76.8305714°W |
| D | Latitude: 38.0962819°N | Longitude: 76.8219142°W |
| E | Latitude: 38.0953539° | Longitude: 76.8127341°W |
| F | Latitude: 38.0907237°N | Longitude: 76.8135957°W |
| G | Latitude: 38.0903702°N | Longitude: 76.8228439°W |
| H | Latitude: 38.0915465°N | Longitude: 76.8298188°W |
| I | Latitude: 38.0913365°N | Longitude: 76.8360186°W |
| J | Latitude: 38.0940015°N | Longitude: 76.8395989°W |

Or

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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

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

The Montross Historic District boundaries are largely determined by parcel lines of the contributing resources fronting onto Route 3 and adjacent streets. The true and correct boundaries of the historic district are shown on the attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Montross Historic District boundaries encompass properties that are historically associated with and contribute to the district's identified period of significance and areas of significance. The property's historic setting and all known associated historic resources have been included within the historic boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian; VDHR Staff (Architectural Survey and additional nomination preparation); Elizabeth H. Lipford, Marc C. Wagner, Blake McDonald, Caitlin Sylvester, Austin Walker

organization: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian

street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road

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

e-mail: dmcclane1@verizon.net

telephone: 804/233-3890

date: March 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Montross Historic District

City or Vicinity: Town of Montross

County: Westmoreland County

State: Virginia

Photographer: Virginia Department of Historic Resources Staff/Debra McClane

Date Photographed: November 20, 2020 and August 27, 2021

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

- 1 of 37: House, 15238 Kings Highway, view towards south.
- 2 of 37: House, 15219 Kings Highway, view towards north.
- 3 of 37: House, 15277 Kings Highway, view towards northeast.
- 4 of 37: Former Theater, 15075 Kings Highway, view towards northwest.
- 5 of 37: House, 15411 Kings Highway, view towards northeast.
- 6 of 37: Service Station, 16419 Kings Highway, view towards northeast.
- 7 of 37: House, 61 Polk Street, view towards southwest.
- 8 of 37: Museum/Library, Courthouse Square, view towards southwest.
- 9 of 37: Courthouse, Courthouse Square, view towards west.
- 10 of 37: Courthouse Square, view towards north.
- 11 of 37: Courthouse Square, view towards west.
- 12 of 37: Commercial area streetscape, view towards northeast.
- 13 of 37: Commercial area streetscape, view towards west.
- 14 of 37: Commercial area streetscape: view towards northeast.
- 15 of 37: Commercial area streetscape, view towards southwest.
- 16 of 37: Water tower, Commercial area streetscape, view towards north.
- 17 of 37: Coca Cola Bottling Building, view towards north.
- 18 of 37: Commercial area streetscape, view towards south.
- 19 of 37: Commercial area streetscape, view towards north.
- 20 of 37: Commercial area streetscape, view towards northeast.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

- 21 of 37: St. James Episcopal Church, view towards south.
- 22 of 37: Residential and Commercial area streetscape, view towards west.
- 23 of 37: Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, view towards east.
- 24 of 37: Washington and Lee High School, view towards south.
- 25 of 37: The Brick House, 15614 Kings Highway, view towards south.
- 26 of 37: Residential area streetscape, view towards west.
- 27 of 37: Residential area streetscape, view towards west.
- 28 of 37: House, 15896 Kings Highway, view towards south.
- 29 of 37: The Hutt House, 15943 Kings Highway, view towards north.
- 30 of 37: Residential area streetscape, view towards northwest.
- 31 of 37: Residential area streetscape, view towards northwest.
- 32 of 37: House, 16224 Kings Highway, view towards south.
- 33 of 37: Commercial Building, 15544 Kings Highway, view towards southwest.
- 34 of 37: Windsor Farm, House, 16484 Kings Highway, view towards southeast.
- 35 of 37: House, 16633 Kings Highway, view towards north.
- 36 of 37: House, Polk Street, view towards northeast.
- 37 of 37 Commercial Building, 15296 Kings Highway, view towards southeast.

Figures

- 1. Westmoreland County Courthouse, ca. 1900, which faced west onto present-day Polk Street.
- 2. Historical postcard of Westmoreland County Courthouse, with ca. 1911 jail building in background.
- 3. Clerk's Office, ca. 1909, with courthouse in the background.
- 4. Former Spence's Tavern, now Inn at Montross, ca. 1908-1909.
- 5. Historical postcard of St. James Episcopal Church, Montross, ca.1920.
- 6. Historical postcard of Andrew Chapel Methodist Church, Montross, ca. 1920.
- 7. Westmoreland Courthouse after 1936 renovations, Stuart Law office visible to the right, Confederate monument as moved to court green, and Carver's worker housing in right background.
- 8. Smallwood Motor Co. building that replaced earlier clerk's office, ca. 1927.
- 9. Westmoreland Motor Co., ca. 1950.
- 10. First Peoples Drug to left (now demolished) and second home to drug store at right (vacant in this photo), early 2000s.
- 11. Rendering of Standard Plant No. 3 from the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Standards of 1929.
- 12. First Floor Plan, Standard Plant No. 3, from the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Standards of 1929.
- 13. Montross Esso Station built by A.E. Carver, ca. 1953.
- 14. Montross School, 1931. Part of a collection of photographs of state operated elementary and secondary schools from the School Buildings Service of the Virginia, Department of Education.
- 15. Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s Van Jean Model advertisement.
- 16. Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s Crescent Model advertisement.
- 17. Sketch of proposed 1825 jail for Westmoreland County, VA.
- 18. Advertisement for Bank of Montross, 1909.

Additional Documentation

- 1. Announcement of opening of Sanford Motor Co. in Montross and congratulations from town businesses.
- 2. African-American teachers standing in front of 1911 Westmoreland County Courthouse, ca. 1917.

Montross Historic District

Name of Property

Westmoreland County, VA

County and State

3. The People's Bank of Montross, built 1924, with Mr. Tate's Barber Shop at rear (no longer extant).
4. Arthur E. Carver, Jr., in front of Northern Neck Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., on opening day, May 7, 1932.
5. 1939 Northern Neck Coca-Cola Sales Fleet.
6. Dignitaries attending the 1948 dedication ceremonies of the Westmoreland County Library and Museum.
7. 1931 postcard image of Route 3, looking towards sharp turn in the road; court square green at left.
8. 1938 postcard of Montross' "Business Section."
9. 1953 view looking west along Route 3.
10. 1953 view looking east along Route 3 with Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., to left and Texaco station, presently offices of Westmoreland County News, to right.
11. 1950s aerial view of Montross looking northeast along Route 3.
12. Fall Festival advertisement listing businesses in Town of Montross.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Legend

 County Boundaries

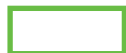
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Montross Historic District

Town of Montross

Westmoreland County, VA

DHR No. 263-5038



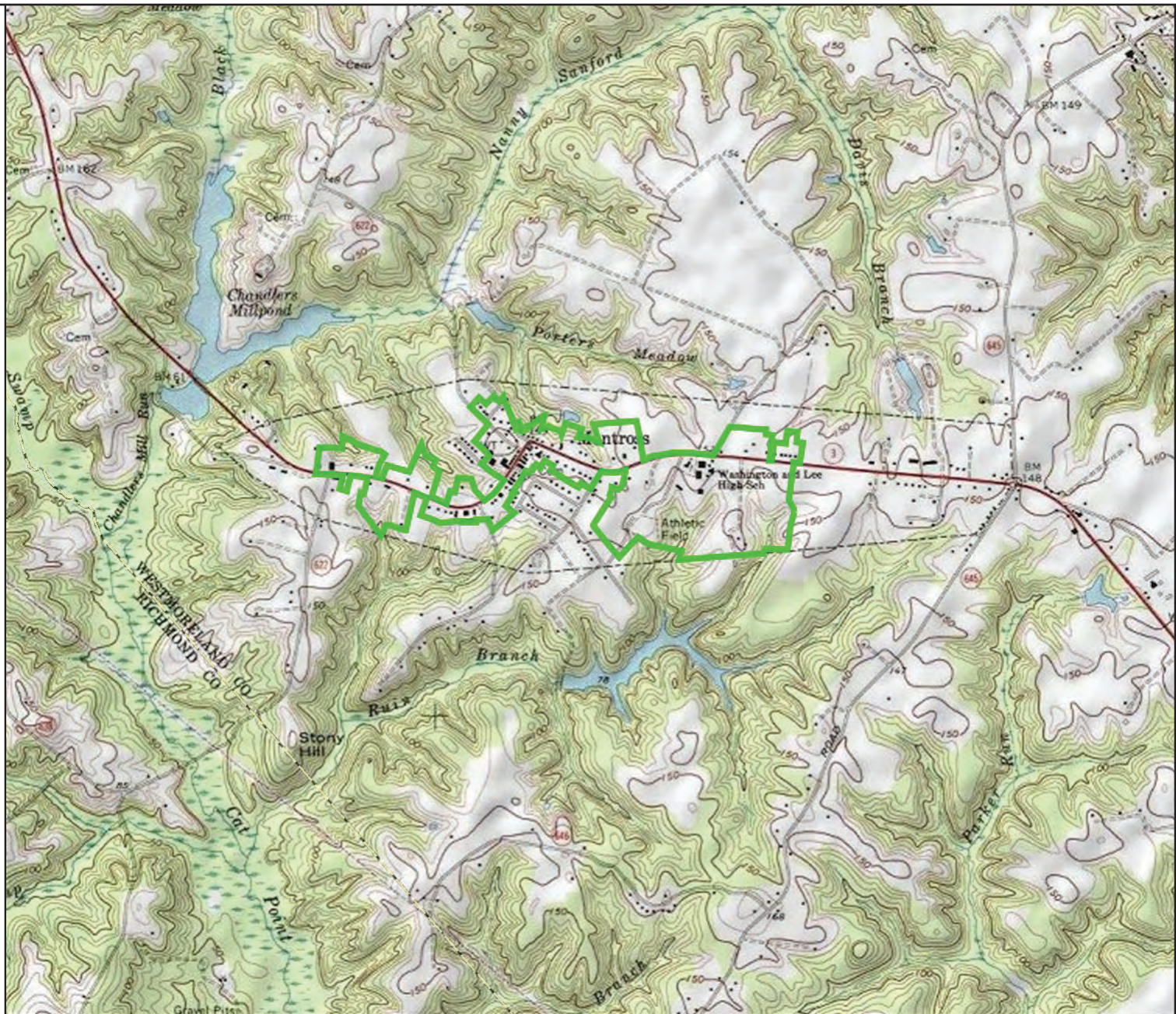
Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 5/12/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Legend

 County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Montross Historic District

Town of Montross

Westmoreland County, VA

DHR No. 263-5038



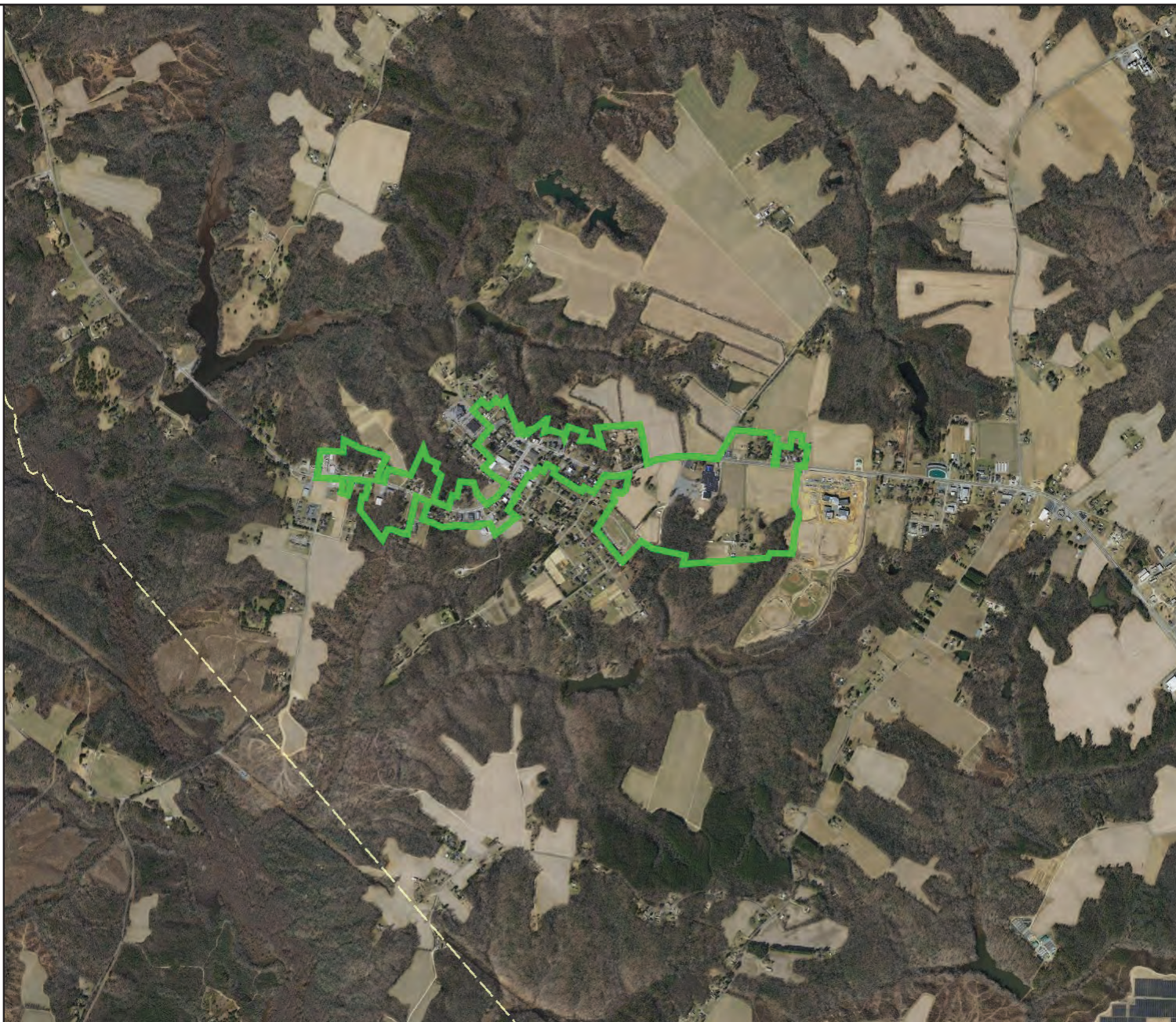
Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

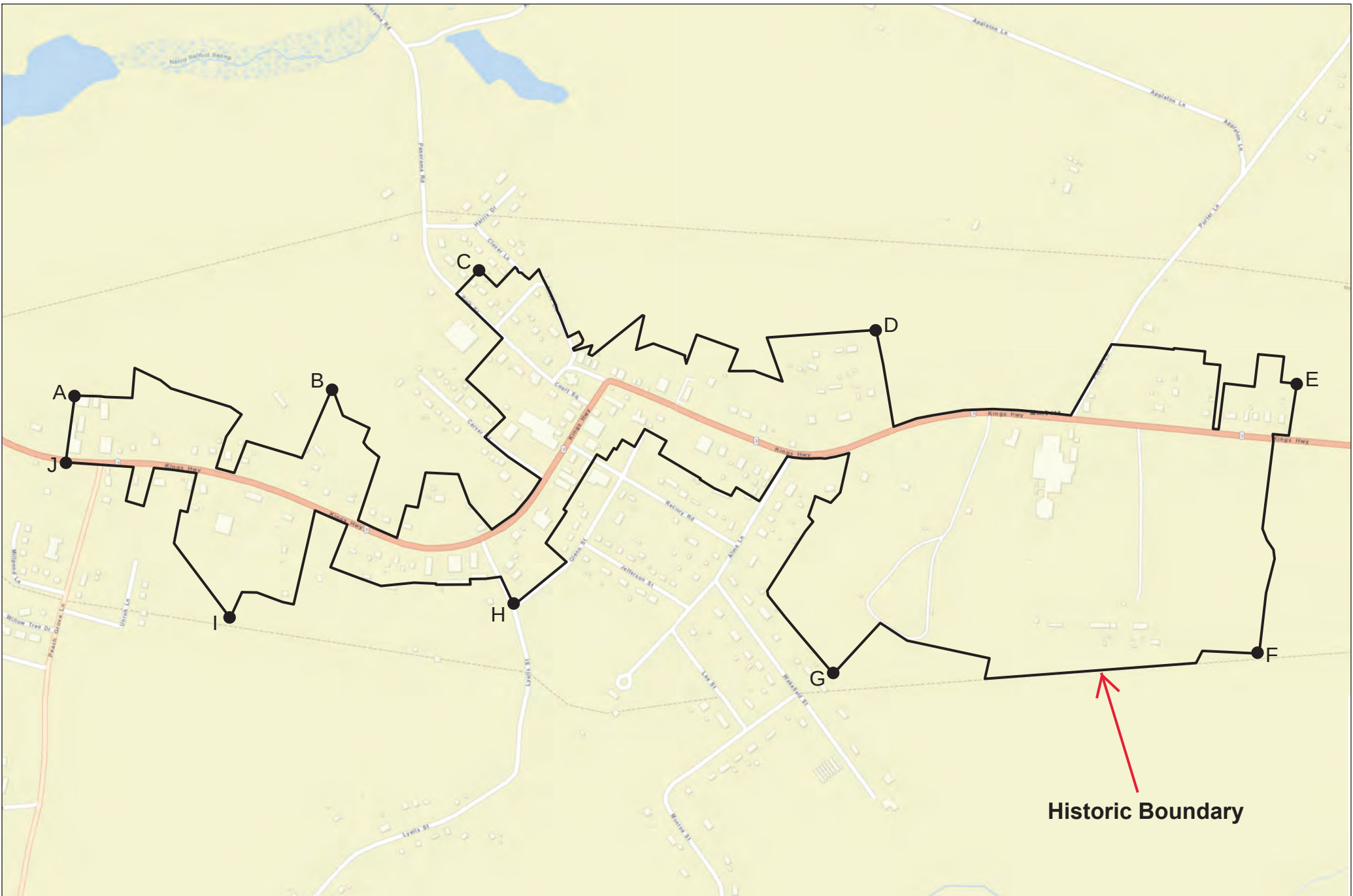


Title:

Date: 5/12/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



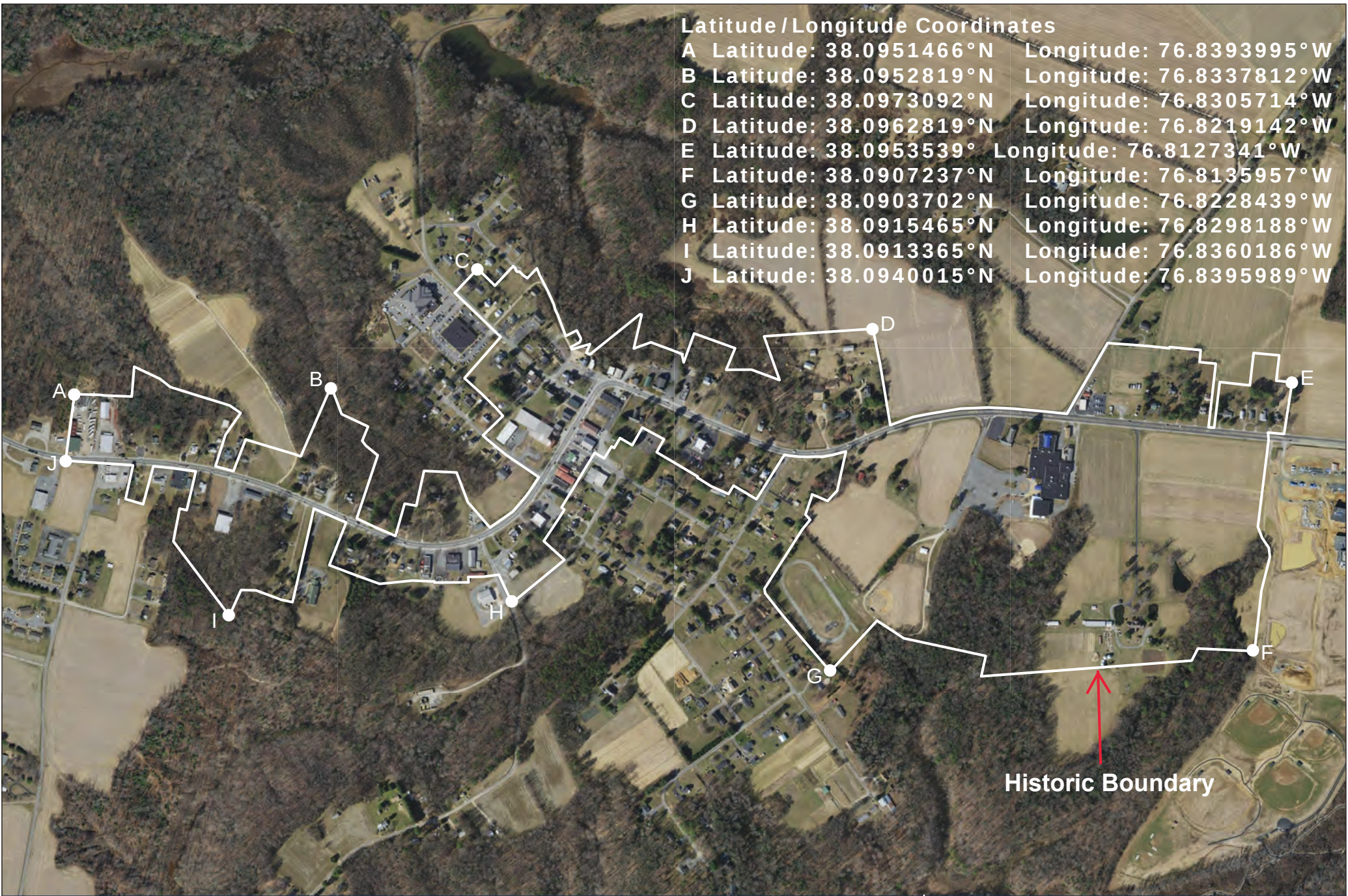
Montross Historic District
Town of Montross
Westmoreland County, VA
DHR ID #263-5038



ROAD MAP



DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORIC RESOURCES



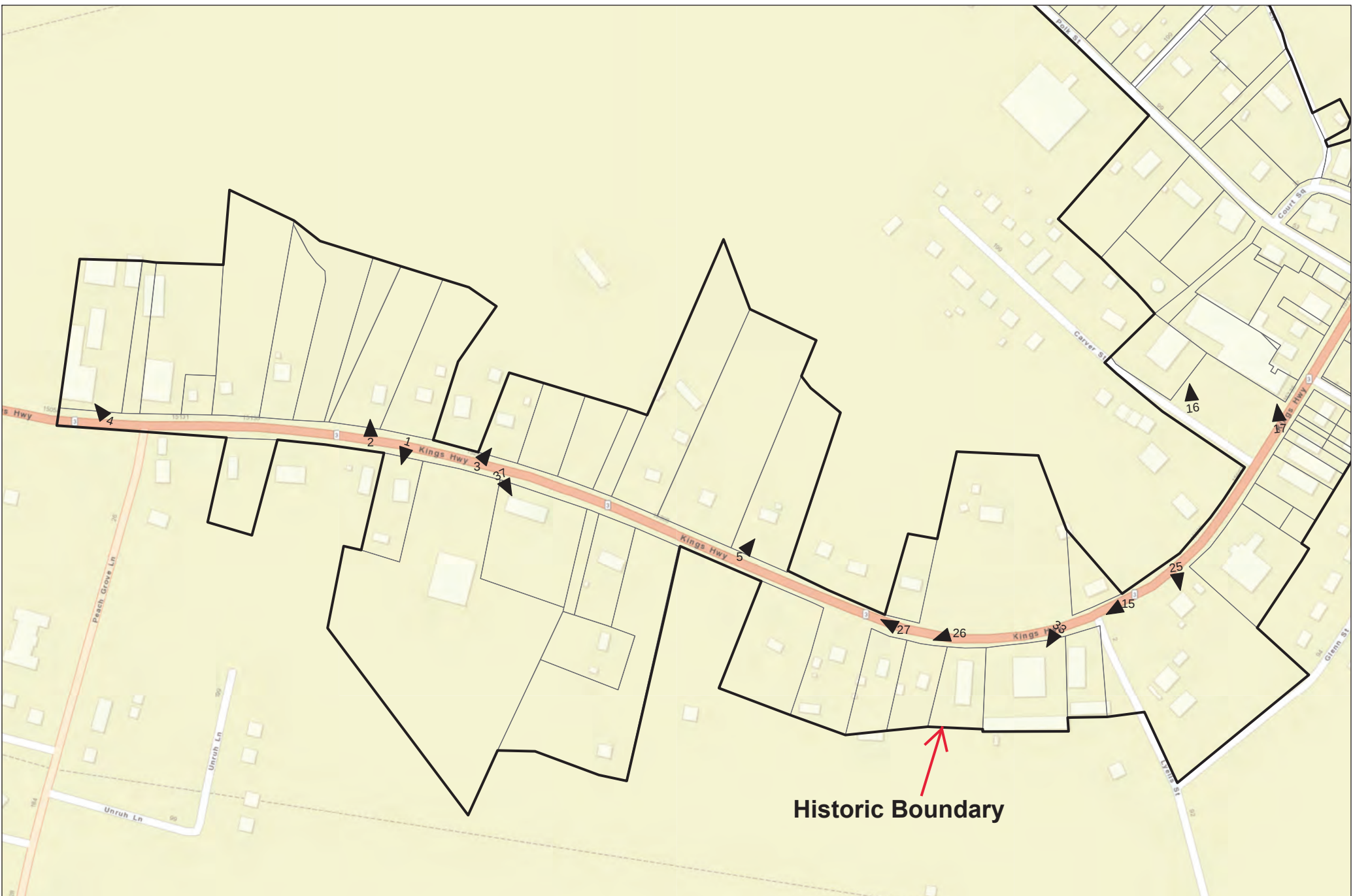
Montross Historic District
Town of Montross
Westmoreland County, VA
DHR ID #263-5038



LOCATION MAP

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORIC RESOURCES



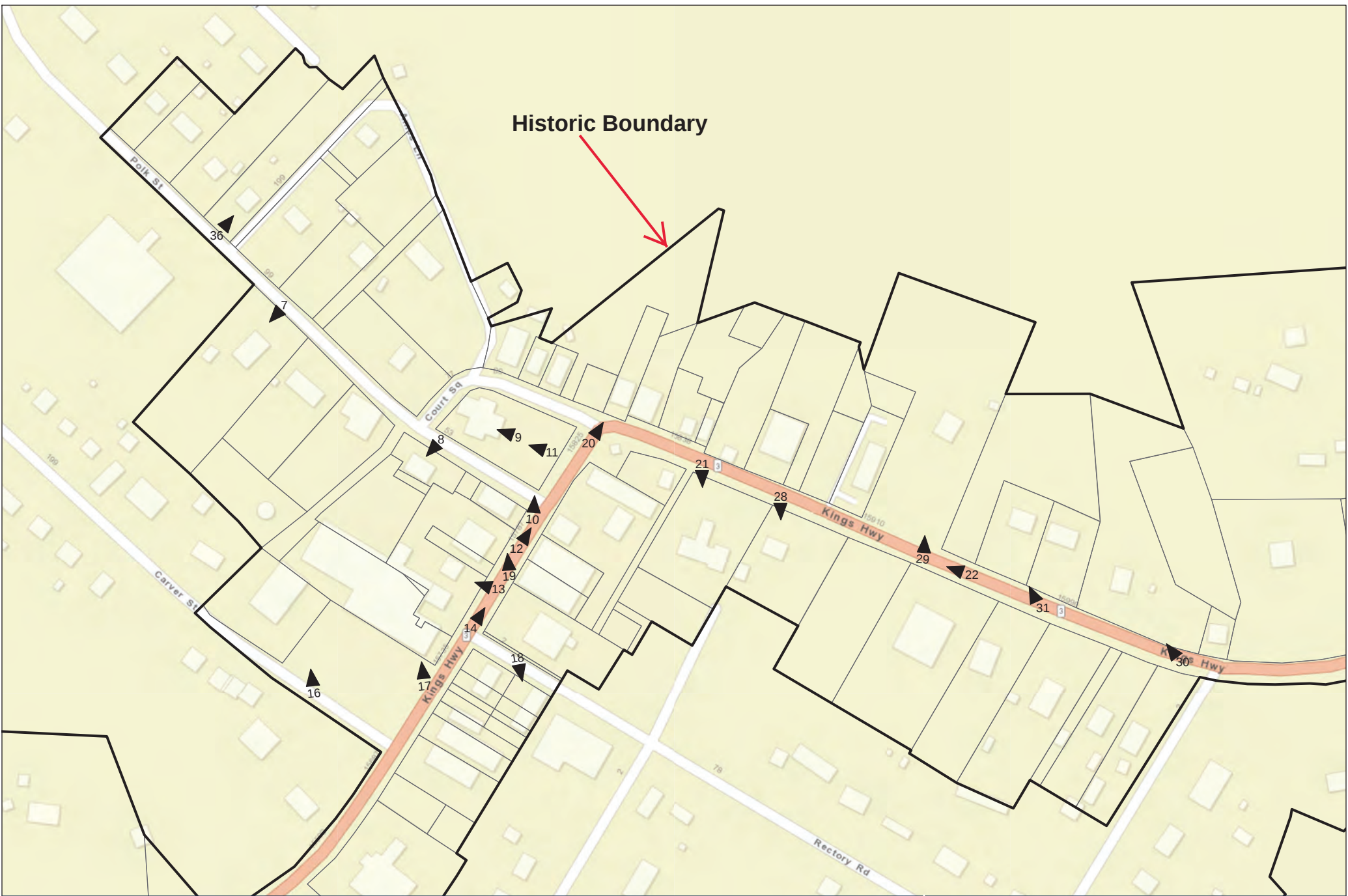
Montross Historic District
Town of Montross
Westmoreland County, VA
DHR ID #263-5038



PHOTO KEY (1 OF 3)



DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES



Montross Historic District
Town of Montross
Westmoreland County, VA
DHR ID #263-5038

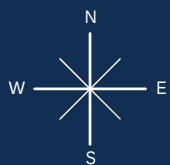
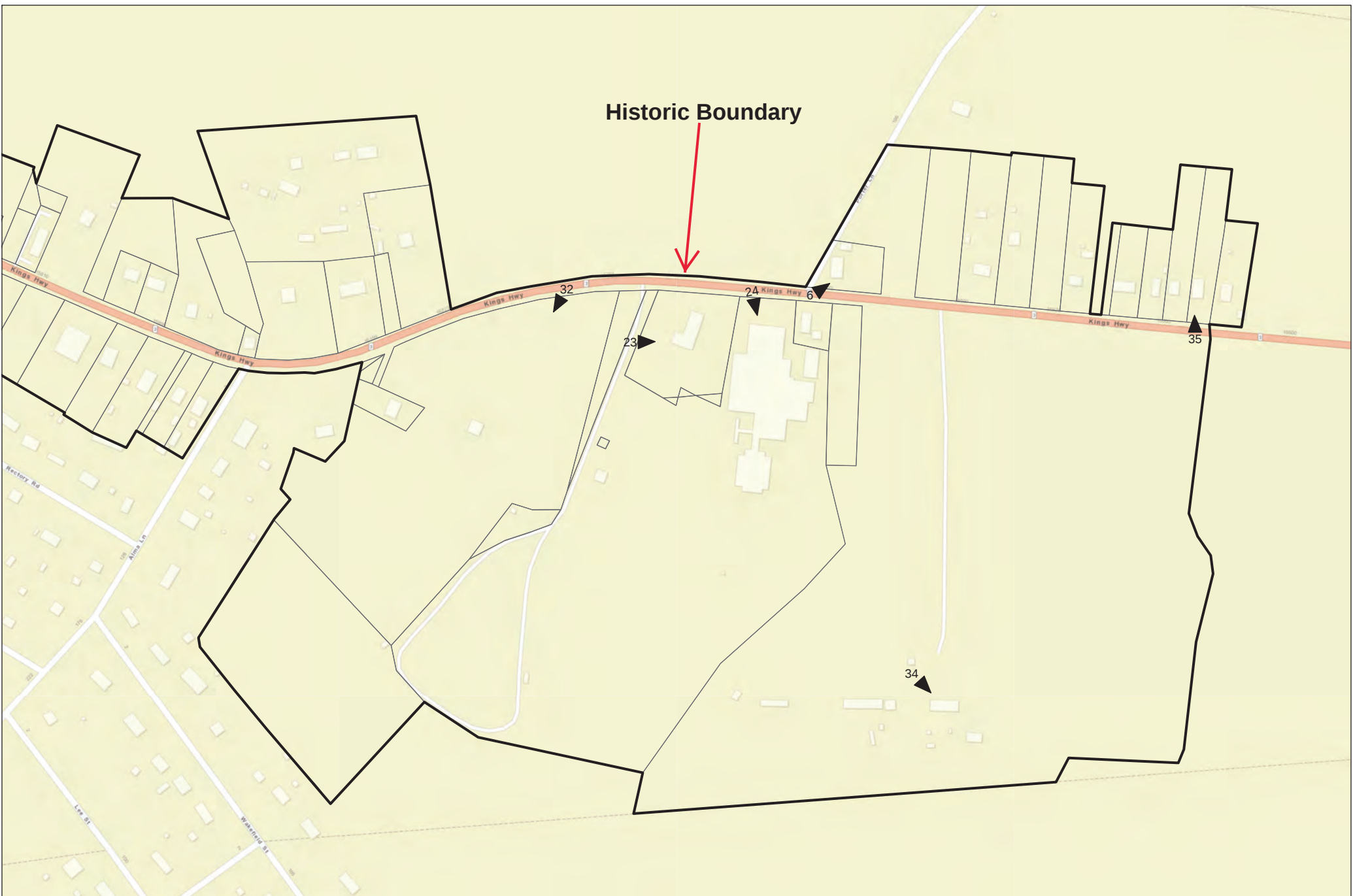


PHOTO KEY (2 OF 3)



DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORIC RESOURCES



Historic Boundary

Montross Historic District
Town of Montross
Westmoreland County, VA
DHR ID #263-5038



PHOTO KEY (3 OF 3)



DHR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES