

## 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 Property**Historic name: The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo (Update 2024 )Other names/site number: Poor House, Parish of Hungars, The Barrier Islands CenterName of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

**2. Location**Street & number: 12402 Lankford HighwayCity or town: Machipongo State: VA County: NorthamptonNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: 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 additional documentation    move    removal    name change (additional documentation)    other 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    meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A    B X C    D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**Introduction**

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo (DHR ID 065-0053), located in Northampton County, Virginia, was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 2001. The original nomination form identified two areas of significance for the property: under Criterion A, Social History, and under Criterion C, Architecture, with a period of significance of 1725-1952, encompassing the date of the earliest extant resource and ending with the property's cessation as an almshouse. The purpose of this Additional Documentation is to update the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo nomination to provide current information about the resources on the property, including their physical condition, and to provide further support for the significance of the property.

Additional documentation provided below is extracted from the current NRHP nomination form, including Section 1, which includes three additional names by which the property has been known; Section 5, Classification (with an updated number of contributing and non-contributing resources); Section 6, Function or Use of Resources; Section 7, Description (including a complete, updated inventory of all resources); Section 8, Statement of Significance; Section 9, Major Bibliographical References (based on new research); Section 10, latitude/longitude coordinates; Section 11, information regarding new authors; and Section 12, new Additional Documentation including a more precisely drawn Location Map and Aerial View, an updated Sketch Map (showing contributing and non-contributing resources), and photographs of buildings on the property with accompanying Photo Key. The nominated boundaries of the property *have not changed* as a result of this update.

Section 7 of this update includes a timeline of the overall development history of the almshouse farm buildings, along with a complete inventory of previously and newly surveyed resources. In March 2021, a reconnaissance-level survey of the property was conducted, during which the surveyor recorded the condition of all previously documented resources, as well as documented resources not previously surveyed and all significant secondary resources. The original nomination included an inventory listing 5 contributing buildings, accompanied by short architectural descriptions of each resource. The 2021 survey and additional research resulted in the identification of four contributing resources, including three contributing buildings and one contributing site, as well as six non-contributing resources, including two non-contributing buildings, three non-contributing objects, and one non-contributing site. One resource that was previously contributing, the frame grain/storage shed, is no longer extant, and one building, the kitchen quarter, that previously was contributing now is noncontributing due to alterations since its Register listing.

Section 8 of this Additional Documentation expands upon the original statement of significance and updates factual information. The property's original period of significance was defined as from 1725 to 1952, to include the estimated construction date of the earliest extant building through the end of Northampton County's operation of the almshouse. This additional documentation refines the period of significance to extend between 1802-1946, the years in which the property now is known to have functioned as an almshouse; the estimated construction date of the earliest contributing resource also has been revised. The updated period of significance captures the span during which the property was

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associated with its areas of significance, as well as the physical integrity of the historic resources. Additional information and research have come to light since the original nomination that has helped narrow construction dates for buildings. Alterations since 2001 to historic resources also are taken into account.

The property's criteria and areas of significance have not been changed. The Statement of Significance in the original nomination covers the context of poor houses and goes into detail about the land, property ownership, buildings on the site, and the property's recent history. The additional documentation herein discusses aspects of the property's historical context that were not discussed in depth in the original nomination: African Americans who resided here, potential association with local Native American history, as well as the history of "bound" children at the Almshouse. The Statement of Significance also contextualizes the architectural significance of the Main Almshouse building as an architect-designed institutional farm building.

**5. Classification****Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3  
Main Almshouse; Almshouse for African Americans; Pump House Shed

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: secondary structureFUNERARY: cemetery

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AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field, agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Folk Victorian

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle; BRICK; STONE: Slate; METAL; GLASS; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

**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.)

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**Summary Paragraph**

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo (now known as the Barrier Islands Center) is located in rural Northampton County off US Route 13 on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Formerly part of a much larger site, the current 17.89-acre property is situated just across the road (US Route 13) from the small unincorporated community of Machipongo. Primarily surrounded by farmland to the north and west, the property is situated in a smaller rectangular, landscaped area close to the main road (US Route 13), with a long line of mature trees lining the edge of US Route 13 that largely obscure the property from view from the road. Today, the site contains five buildings, connected via brick walkways, along with two notable sites, three objects, and other smaller site features within a formal landscape design that were added since the Barrier Islands Center took over the property in 2001. The site is entered from Young Street via a long, curved, tree-lined, gravel driveway that culminates in a large gravel parking area situated immediately adjacent to the west side of the site's main area. The property has three contributing buildings: the Main Almshouse, Almshouse for African Americans, and Pump House Shed. A cemetery is a contributing site. Noncontributing resources are the Quarter Kitchen (building); Formal

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Landscape Design (site); Entrance Sign and Maritime-Themed Display (object), Spanish Steamship Relic (object), Bell Mounted on Wood Frame (object); and Generator Shed (building). Other landscaped features of the property include a few mature trees and shrubs along the walkways and near the buildings, benches, a flagpole, a large brick patio connected to the Quarter Kitchen, lighting, and interpretive signage. Overall, the property retains integrity of location, feeling, and association. The integrity of setting within the property has been somewhat altered due to the formal landscape design since 2001. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship for the three contributing buildings is very good. The quarter kitchen has lost integrity and no longer is contributing. The noncontributing Generator Shed has an unobtrusive design and the three noncontributing objects are small in scale and related to the property's current use as a maritime museum.

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**Narrative Description**

**Inventory of Resources**

Main Almshouse (contributing building)

Almshouse for African Americans (contributing building)

Pump House Shed (contributing building)

Cemetery (contributing site)

Quarter Kitchen (noncontributing building)

Formal Landscape Design (noncontributing site)

Entrance Sign and Maritime-Themed Display (noncontributing object)

Spanish Steamship Relic (noncontributing object)

Bell Mounted on Wood Frame (noncontributing object)

Generator Shed (noncontributing building)

**Timeline of Development**

Prior research, including the 2001 nomination, had a number of inconsistencies regarding the property's important dates, particularly building construction dates. The following discussion corrects erroneous dates of construction and includes a detailed timeline outlining the significant dates and events associated with The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo. Formerly part of a much larger farm, the listed property is situated in a smaller rectangular, 17.89-acre landscaped area close to the main road (US Route 13). Four of the main buildings associated with the historic Almshouse and farm remain extant today, including the Main Almshouse for White persons, the Almshouse for African American residents, the Quarter Kitchen, and the Pump House Shed. Although the property's larger, rural setting remains largely unchanged since the period of significance ended for the Almshouse, many of the buildings that once were part of the historic complex are no longer extant. The formal landscape design that was installed after the property was converted for use as a maritime museum is noncontributing, as are three objects within the design: Between 1996-2004, a Generator Shed also was added to the site.

**1802** – The first order was given for the original almshouse building (for White residents) to be constructed.

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The original brick building was approximately 40 ft. long and 30 ft. wide.<sup>1</sup> A subsequent report from 1821 describes the building as containing six rooms with a cellar; forty-five people occupied the building at this time.<sup>2</sup>

- 1804** – An order was given for additional buildings to be constructed on-site, including a smokehouse (not extant), corn stack (not extant), and a brick kitchen building measuring approximately 18 ft. x 20 ft.<sup>3</sup>

Of these three buildings, only the kitchen building remains extant.

- 1819** – The first barn was added to the site (no longer extant)

This barn later became known as the burial wagon house.<sup>4</sup>

- 1844** – The c. 1804 Kitchen was expanded with the addition of a frame section, approximately 18 ft. square, onto the west section of the building.

The record states that the frame section was to be underpinned with brick, to include a brick chimney, and that the reason for its construction was to house African American persons, who before resided in the Almshouse cellar.<sup>5</sup> Black and White residents at the Almshouse occupied separate living quarters due to the racial segregation that was customary in Virginia prior to the Civil War (1861-1865).

- 1881** – The original almshouse building, for White inmates, was destroyed by fire on November 20th.

An article from the *Snow Hill Democratic Messenger* references a spark as the cause of the fire. It also stated that the construction of a new almshouse would be necessary.<sup>6</sup> As a result of the fire, temporary housing was constructed immediately following the fire to house the White residents. While it is unclear where the temporary housing was located, the Board of Supervisors reports note that the new poorhouse was roughly 84 ft. x 16 ft. and that it remained in use for approximately two years.<sup>7</sup>

- 1882** – On February 3, 1882, the almshouse farm was granted funding to rebuild the poorhouse

<sup>1</sup> 1801 Overseer of the Poor Reports, page 84, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA

<sup>2</sup> 1820 Overseer of the Poor Reports, page 1, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA

<sup>3</sup> This refers to the construction of the masonry section of what is known today as the Quarter Kitchen.

<sup>4</sup> 1819 Overseer of the Poor Report, page 4, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA

<sup>5</sup> 1844 Overseer of the Poor Report, page 4, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA

<sup>6</sup> *Snow Hill Democratic Messenger*, 3 December 1881, p.3., (Newspapers.com @ Acestry.com: Accessed 5 December 2020).

<sup>7</sup> Board of Supervisors Minutes Information Packet, 1881, page 272, County Administration, Eastville, VA

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burned by fire.<sup>8</sup>

Later that year, legal notices were placed inviting contractors to submit bids to build a new poorhouse.

**1883** – In c. 1883, a new main almshouse building for White inmates was constructed.

The new building was designed by the Holtzclaw Brothers – Charles Taylor Holtzclaw & William Holtzclaw. A Hampton-based company, they were primarily known for prominent institutional buildings. Their projects included the Chamberlin Hotel, the “old soldier’s home” (a reconstruction of Mount Vernon for a show), and the Virginia building at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.<sup>9</sup> Architectural drawings were prepared for the new poorhouse on the Eastern Shore at Machipongo. The overall rather plain, vernacular design of the building included some Folk Victorian attributes, such as an entry porch with chamfered square wood posts, M-shaped wood bracing, square balusters, and molded railing, as well as multiple-light sash with mirrored triangular panes at end gable peak.<sup>10</sup> Actual construction of the building was undertaken by a local contractor named John Hargis. Material records indicate that construction was likely complete in late 1883.<sup>11</sup>

**1908** – A larger barn (no longer extant) was added to the complex.

Historic research suggests that the barn once stood just northeast of the first, smaller barn/burial wagon house.

**1910** – A separate almshouse building for African Americans was constructed in 1910.

Prior to the construction of this new building, the African Americans onsite had been living in the loft of the Quarter Kitchen and, before that, in the cellar of the original almshouse building (White residents occupied the main floors of the latter building). The construction of the building for African Americans occurred not long after, and is perceived to have been prompted by, a study conducted by the Commonwealth of Virginia which stated that living conditions at the poorhouse farm were terrible. By this time, state law mandated racial segregation in all public accommodations.

<sup>8</sup> Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed at a General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia During the Session of 1881-1882. (Richmond: R.F. Walker, Superintendent Public Printing, 1882). p. 50, Accessed via Google Books 3 March 2021.

<sup>9</sup> John Wells and Dalton E. Robert, *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997). p. 203-205.

<sup>10</sup> The drawing is recorded as being located at the Northampton County circuit court, but it has not yet been found.

<sup>11</sup> Board of Supervisors Minutes Information Packet, 1883, p. 291, County Administration, Eastville, VA.

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**1914** – Due to a smallpox epidemic, in 1914, Northampton County's almshouse received an order for immediate erection of a Pest House, also known as a Plague House.<sup>12</sup> Based on the daily report from R.H. Richardson & Sons, Inc., it is known that the Pest House was a wood-frame building with a brick foundation and one chimney. It was also whitewashed. The report also details the erection of two terra cotta flues and a fumigating room. Accompanying the report is a drawing of a pump, as the Pest House was to have a separate water supply to avoid cross-contamination with residents of the two almshouses.<sup>13</sup>

Patients with infectious diseases, such as smallpox, cholera, measles, and scarlet fever, were quarantined in the Pest House.<sup>14</sup> Pest Houses were almost always located next to a cemetery to avoid carrying the deceased through a town or village and to inter the deceased as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of infection.<sup>15</sup> Historic reports and historic aerial photographs show that the Pest House at the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo was located just north of the large 1908 barn at the southeast corner of what is believed to be a second cemetery. The Pest House is no longer extant.

**1917** – Although it is unknown when a windmill was constructed at the poor farm or exactly where it stood, a 1917 report references repair of the windmill.

Separately, another report references the repair of the windmill again in 1935 and 1937.<sup>16</sup> The location of the windmill is not known.

**1932** – Fueled primarily by State pressure to close almshouses and restructure the method of caring for the poor, the Almshouse at Machipongo began sending inmates over to the Norfolk City Home.

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo retained people who were invalids and those who were too old or sick to be moved. The almshouse operated at this scaled-back version for approximately 10 years. During this time, the poorhouse employees continued to care for this limited number of inmates, bury decedents, and grow crops.

**1937** – In 1937, electricity was installed in the Main Almshouse building, the Almshouse for African Americans, the poultry house (not extant), and the barn (not extant) by the Works Progress

<sup>12</sup> Board of Supervisors Minutes Information Packet, March 1914, County Administration, Eastville, VA.

<sup>13</sup> "Pest House Construction Daily Report" records from R.H. Richardson and Sons, Richmond, VA., p .2-3

<sup>14</sup> "The Pest House Medical Museum in the Old City Cemetery," Old City Cemetery: The Pest House, accessed March 26, 2021, <https://www.gravegarden.org/the-pest-house/>.

<sup>15</sup> "Pest Houses & The Ephemeral Architecture of Quarantine," *Archipedia New England*, p. 11, accessed March 30, 2021, [www.archipedianewengland.org/pest-houses-the-ephemeral-architecture-of-quarantine/](http://www.archipedianewengland.org/pest-houses-the-ephemeral-architecture-of-quarantine/).

<sup>16</sup> Board of Supervisors Minutes Information Packet, July 1937, County Administration, Eastville, VA.

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Administration.<sup>17</sup>

**1942** – C.1942, Northampton County stopped sending indigent residents to Norfolk and moved everyone back to the farm at Machipongo. They began operating again as a fully functioning almshouse under the direction of the Underhills.

The Underhills were the last to operate the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo before its official closing.

**1946** – The almshouse officially closed.

The last recorded mention of the operation of the almshouse dates to 1946. At this time, there were only two White residents at the almshouse, while African American residents had already been moved to a boarding home. C. 1946-1947, the Underhills moved out and sold off the furnishings and fixtures through an auction.

Although the Almshouse had officially closed, Northampton County still owned the land and continued to operate the lands/crops and to bury people at the cemetery until 1952. In 1952, the land was sold to the Gibb family. A land survey in August 1952 records 92.26 acres of land associated with the historic almshouse farm and shows the relative layout of the buildings that were present at that time (see Figure 1).

In 2001, the former poor farm was acquired by the Barrier Islands Center, whose mission is to preserve and perpetuate the unique culture and history of Virginia's Barrier Islands through education and the collection and interpretation of artifacts. Today the property serves as a gathering place and center for cultural history in the community. The Barrier Islands Center is committed to preserving the historic resources on the property and gives new life to the buildings through use in their programming.

Of the resources described above, only four of the buildings originally associated with the historic Almshouse Farm at Machipongo remain extant today. A Generator Shed was added to the complex between 1996-2005, and the grain storage shed described in the 2001 nomination has been demolished. Furthermore, the property's historic acreage was subdivided prior to its Register listing. The Almshouse complex occupies a tract of 17.89 acres, out of what was once a 92.26-acre site. While the agricultural parcels have been subdivided, they continue to be under cultivation, thus preserving the surrounding landscape.<sup>18</sup> The former poor farm's current setting and remaining buildings, along with site alterations since 2001 and the addition of the Generator Shed, are described in detail below.

<sup>17</sup> Board of Supervisors Minutes Information Packet, July 1937, County Administration, Eastville, VA.

<sup>18</sup> Northampton County, VA, Commissioner of the Revenue. Parcel #9582, 7295 Young Street. *Automated County Register Information System*, 14 June 2021, <https://gis.vgsi.com/northamptonva/Parcel.aspx?Pid=9582>.

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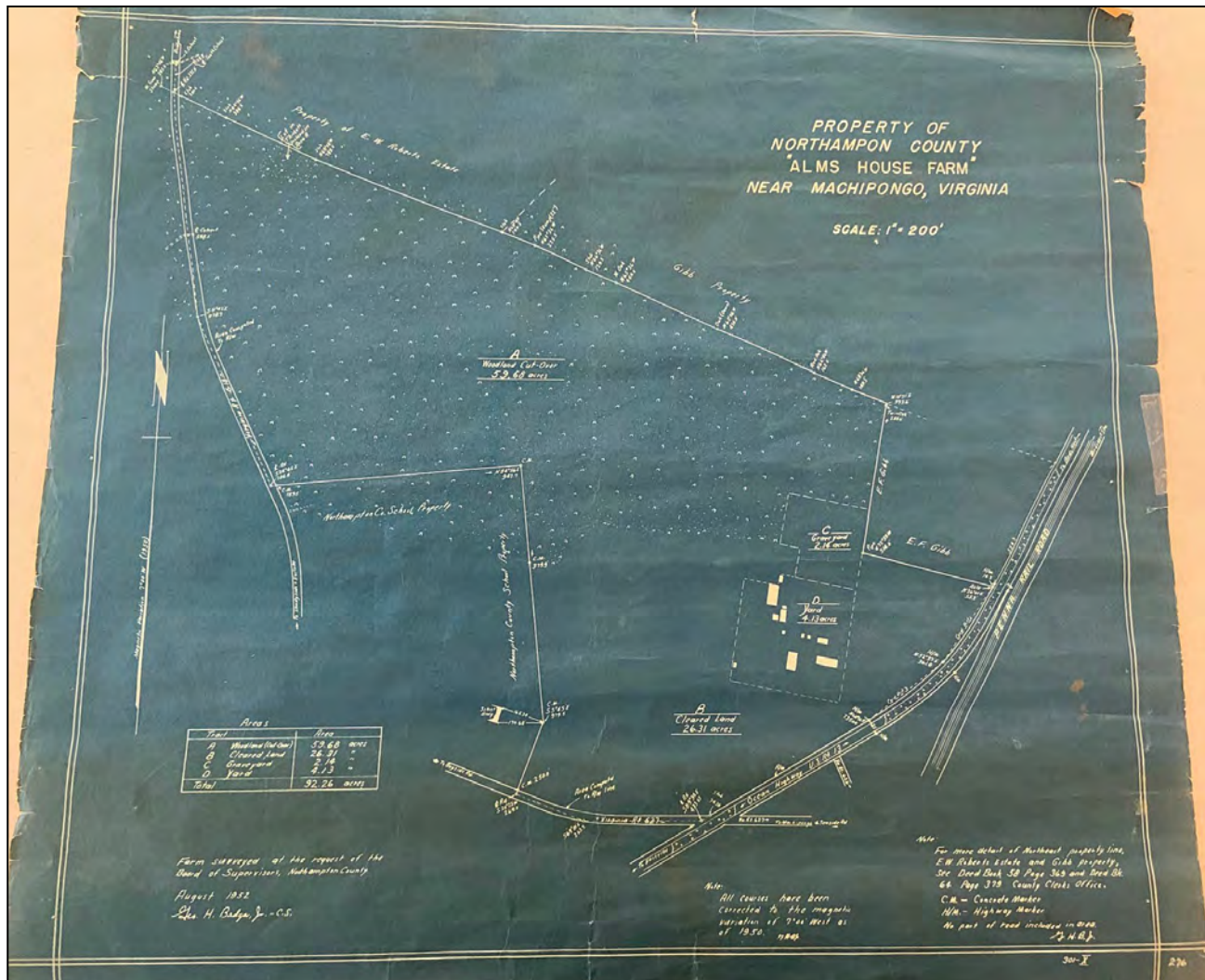
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**Figure 1: 1952 Land Survey Blueprint of the Almshouse Farmland at Machipongo**

## Setting

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo is located in rural Northampton County just off US 13 on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Part of an expansive rural landscape, the vicinity surrounding the property largely consists of farmland and other agricultural resources. The property is bordered by US 13 to the east, Young Street to the south, and neighboring agricultural fields to the north and west. The property is largely obscured from view from the road by a long line of mature trees lining the edge of US Route 13. A large free-standing sign and maritime-themed display are located at the southwest corner of the site, visible from the main road, and loosely marks the entrance to the site. The remainder of the site is accessed from Young Street by a long, slightly curved, tree-lined, gravel driveway that culminates in a gravel parking area situated immediately adjacent to the west side of the Almshouse complex. Two

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objects, a Spanish Steamship Relic and a Bell Mounted on a Wooden Frame, are situated along the border of the parking area. A flagpole is situated in the center of the parking loop, which is located at the south end of the parking area. The remainder of the parking area, which is complete with planned spaces and parking blocks arranged in an arc, along with a concrete handicap parking pad, is bordered by a brick sidewalk, lined with decorative street light poles, to the east.

The primary entrance to the interpretive area is located at the southeast corner of the parking lot where the brick sidewalk makes an ell. The main sidewalk, which leads directly to the front of the Main Almshouse building, is marked by bushes at the entry and is framed by mature trees, benches, and commemorative plaques along the length of the walkway. Decorative street-light poles line the north side of the sidewalk. Another site feature, a “fossil” pit, is located just southwest of the main walkway at the entrance to the interpretive area.

Two of the smallest buildings on-site, the Pump House Shed and Generator Shed, are located just northwest of the Main Almshouse and are visible from the parking lot. Since these buildings are not part of the formal interpretive area for the Barrier Islands Center, as they are strictly utilitarian in nature, no brick walkways connect to these buildings.

A curved brick walkway, along the north side of the Main Almshouse building, connects the main sidewalk/front of the site to the remainder of the interpretive area buildings. Additional brick sidewalks connect the rear of the Main Almshouse building to the Almshouse for African Americans and the Quarter Kitchen and the Quarter Kitchen to the Almshouse for African Americans. The latter building is located behind the Main Almshouse immediately to the east. The Quarter Kitchen is located north of the Almshouse for African Americans at the northeast corner of the main interpretive area. A large brick patio is located at the west end of the Quarter Kitchen and wraps around the building on the north side, as well as connects to the brick sidewalks on the south side. The remainder of the interpretive area consists of well-kept grassy lawns within a rectangular area that is defined by the bordering agricultural fields. Free-standing interpretive signage on wood posts identifies each of the three main buildings on-site. The cemetery is located north/northwest of the main interpretive area.

**Main Almshouse, for Whites (c. 1883) – Contributing Building**

The Main Almshouse is a two-and-a-half story, seven-bay, rectangular, wood-frame, vernacular building with Folk-Victorian influences. The west-facing building has wood weatherboard siding, a slate side-gable roof, simple boxed eaves with eave returns on the north and south elevations, and four interior chimneys. Unlike the other three chimneys, the northwest corner chimney features additional layers of brick corbelling at the cap and is also shorter. Due to the fire that resulted in the loss of the original Main Almshouse, the building has a two-layer brick foundation from where the new building was constructed on top of what remained of the old foundation. What remains of the original foundation consists of hand-molded, common-bond bricks with larger mortar joints, while the more recent foundation layer consists of more uniform machine-pressed, stretcher-bond bricks with a thinner mortar joint. Tiny air holes, to ventilate the crawl space, line the top of the foundation along each elevation. Additionally,

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crawl space access doors are located on each elevation.

Organized symmetrically, each elevation includes a central entrance and multiple windows. The majority of the windows have double-hung, wood, six-over-six sash with simple wood frames and sills. However, paired four-over-four, wood sash windows are located at the second-floor level directly above each entrance on each elevation. Additionally, the attic level, on both the north and south elevations, features paired, three-over-four, triangular-arched windows. Historically the windows had shutters, as shown in historic photographs, as well as the extant hinges and evidence of shutter dogs on the windows and exterior walls.

The west facade features a partial-width, three-bay, one-story porch flanked by two six-over-six windows on each side. Underneath the porch roof, windows flank the entrance door. The porch, which has a brick pier foundation, a hipped, metal, standing-seam roof, and a simple cornice, is accessed by a simple stair in the central bay directly in front of the door. The porch itself contains most of the building's Folk-Victorian influences with decorative, chamfered square wood posts, M-shaped wood bracing, square balusters, and a molded wood porch railing. The porch floor has been replaced with two-toned gray, Trex tongue-and-groove, composite decking, but the porch retains its original beadboard ceiling. The main entrance features a single-leaf, four-panel, wood door flanked by sidelights and topped with a three-light transom window. The sidelights have three upper lights with a lower wood panel. The second story of the façade has symmetrically-placed windows vertically aligned with those on the first story.

The south (side) entrance features a single-leaf, four-panel, wood door with a three-light transom window. It is accessed via a vinyl stoop supported on a brick pier foundation. The stoop has Trex tongue-and-groove decking and simple, square vinyl balusters, newel posts, and railings. The north, side entrance also has a single-leaf, four-panel wood door with a three-light transom window. A modern (post-2012) ADA-compliant, U-shaped access ramp and wheelchair lift have been constructed at this entrance along the north elevation. The wood ramp is supported by a brick pier foundation and has square wood newel posts, square balusters, and a molded wood railing. Three-quarters of the ramp slope is screened by attached vertical wood fence posts, which also serve as the railing, along the north side. The metal wheelchair lift is located at the southwest corner of the ramp, up against the building, and is accessed from the west (front) side of the building.

The rear, two-bay entrance, which includes two single-leaf entrance doors, is accessed via a vinyl porch that is supported by a brick pier foundation. The porch has square vinyl balusters, vinyl newel posts, a vinyl railing, and Trex tongue-and-groove decking. The porch is covered by a shed-roofed overhang with diagonal braces and a standing-seam metal roof. The main (southernmost) rear entrance has a four-panel wood door flanked by sidelights and topped with a three-light transom window. The sidelights feature three upper lights with a lower wood panel. The northernmost rear entrance has a four-panel, wood door with a three-light transom window. Unlike the other doors, this entry also has a decorative wood screen door. The remainder of the rear elevation is lined with symmetrically placed wood

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windows.

**Almshouse for African Americans (1910) – Contributing Building**

The Almshouse for African Americans is a one-story, three-bay, long, rectangular, wood-frame, vernacular building with multiple entrances. The building has a stretcher-bond brick foundation, wood weatherboard siding, and a steeply-pitched, hipped, slate roof with simple boxed eaves and multiple interior brick chimneys. One of the brick chimneys, along with two roof vents, is located along the ridgeline of the roof. Three brick chimneys are along the building's north (side) and three more are along the south (side) slope. Except for the two easternmost chimneys, the brick chimneys have simple concrete caps. The two easternmost chimneys, one each on the north and south slopes, have more decorative corbeled brick caps. Entrances include a mix of wood and modern fiberglass, single-leaf, four-panel doors. Windows primarily have double-hung, six-over-six, wood sash with simple wood frames and sills. Modern, recessed lighting has been added along the boxed eaves.

The west façade features a single-leaf, four-panel, wood door flanked by a window on each side. The entrance is accessed via a simple wood stoop, with wood railings, balusters, and decking. A small shed, awning-style, slate-roofed overhang is located just above the door. Unlike the windows along the rest of the building, the two windows on the façade each have louvered wood shutters.

The east (rear) elevation's fenestration matches that of the façade, with a centered entry flanked by two windows (although the windows do not have shutters). A simple wood stoop with wood railings, balusters, and decking accesses the entry, which is sheltered by a small, shed-roofed awning with diagonal braces and slate tile roofing. The entry has a replacement, four-panel, fiberglass door.

An L-shaped ADA-compliant access ramp is located at the northeast corner of the building. The access begins at the east end of the north side of the building and wraps around to the entrance on the east (rear) side of the building. The wood ramp, which connects to the wood stoop at the east entrance, has wood railings, decking, and simple wood posts and balusters. Fenestration along the north (side) elevation largely consists of asymmetrically placed wood-sash windows and an entrance located at the second bay from the east. Consistent with the style of the other entrances, the north entrance consists of a single-leaf, modern, four-panel fiberglass door with a glass storm door and a shed, awning-style, slate overhang. The wood stoop that leads up to the entrance matches those on the east (rear) gable end wall and west gable end façade. Windows with wood sash are to either side of the entrance.

At the southwest corner of the building along the south elevation, a replacement narrow, raised, three-bay, deck/porch is located at the same place that the building's original specifications called for a porch. Accessed by three wood steps at the east end, the wood deck has a wood railing, wood decking, and wood posts and balusters. A retractable canvas awning is fixed to the building in this location to cover the deck. Two single-leaf entrances are located along this elevation and accessed via the deck. Each has a modern, four-panel, fiberglass replacement door with a glass storm door. The remainder of the elevation is lined with wood-sash windows.

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**Quarter Kitchen (c.1804, c.1844. Major Alt.: 2005-2007, 2017-2019) – Non-contributing Building**

The Quarter Kitchen is a one-and-a-half-story, four-bay, single-pile, rectangular, vernacular building constructed in two halves joined under one unifying side-gable, replacement wood-shingle roof with continuous boxed eaves and added modern flat-stock trim. The eastern half of the Quarter Kitchen, which is the original section constructed c. 1804, is of masonry construction with a brick foundation, a three-course rounded water table, and Flemish-bond brick walls. The western half of the Quarter Kitchen was added onto the masonry section c. 1844 and is of wood-frame construction with a brick foundation, a modern two-course brick skirt, and replacement beaded wood siding. A brick interior chimney is located in the center of the building at the junction of the two sections. An exterior-end, reconstructed brick chimney is located on the west elevation, adjoining the west wall of the c. 1844 wood-frame addition. Modern, recessed lighting has been added along the full length of the boxed eaves.

Each half of the south façade has a window and an entry with a single-leaf, board-and-batten door. The entry in the masonry section is located at the east end of the façade and is framed by thick, modern, wood, built-out trim and a rowlock brick header. A single wood step is set within the door frame. The single window, which is located west of the door, has a tall, narrow, double-hung, wood-frame, four-over-four sash a plain wood sill and louvered wood shutters. Similar to the masonry section, the entry to the c. 1844 frame section is located at the south façade's east end. The entry is framed by simple, modern, wood trim and has a single wood step set within the door frame. The single window, which is located west of the door, is a fixed, six-light, wood-sash window with louvered wood shutters.

The building's east gable end has a single bay with a central paired six-light, wood-sash, casement window with louvered wood shutters. Originally, an additional single-leaf entry was at this location. While it was converted to a window as early as 1968, evidence of the door opening, marked by the differing brick infill, was visible below the window until at least 2003. The former brick sill and header have been replaced with wide, modern, flat-stock trim surrounding the entirety of the window. Additionally, a fixed, four-light, wood-sash window, with a wood sill and louvered wooden shutters, is located at the attic level.

The north (rear) elevation of the masonry section has only one opening, which consists of a right-of-center window with a double-hung, wood, four-over-four sash with a wood sill. The north elevation of the c. 1844 frame addition has an entrance at the east end and a window at the west end. The single-leaf, board-and-batten door, which is located on the eastern end of the section, is framed by simple wood trim and has a single wood step set within the door frame. The single window has a fixed, six-light, wood sash with simple modern wood trim.

The frame section's gable end west (side) elevation has a single bay that contains the exterior, reconstructed brick chimney. A fixed, four-light, wood-sash window is located at the attic level on each side of the chimney. A new brick skirt, which is both out of character for the building and potentially harmful to the long-term preservation of the building, has also been added along the base of the wall of

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each of the frame addition elevations.

A new brick half-wall, which runs north/south, adjoins the north elevation of the Quarter Kitchen at the junction of the two sections. Additionally, a new brick patio wraps around the façade, west elevation, and a portion of the north elevation up to the brick half-wall.

Multiple alterations to the Quarter Kitchen occurred after the Almshouse closed in 1946 and prior to acquisition of the property by the Barrier Islands Center in 2001. Adding flat stock trim, building out the trim around the door and window openings, adding shutters, increasing the height of the west chimney, and infilling the east elevation door opening and converting it to a window were the major changes during this period. At the time of the former poor farm's Register listing in 2001, however, the building still largely retained its integrity as an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century kitchen quarter. Renovations in 2005-2007 and 2017-2019 resulted in a substantial loss of integrity and the building no longer retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, feeling, or association. As a result of the work that has been done to the building throughout the years, many of the materials, such as the siding, roofing, brick, mortar, and wood, have been replaced with modern materials. That much of the historic material was not replaced in kind, and either does not match the period of the building or is different enough in composition to have a negative effect on the health and stability of the building has resulted in a loss of integrity of materials. Design elements that have been added or changed throughout the years, such as the addition of beaded siding and changing the height/spacing of the siding boards, further building out of the window and door trim, adding a brick skirt around the c. 1844 frame section, changing out much of the historic brick, and inappropriate repointing, have resulted in altering the character of the building and thus a loss of integrity of design. Due to the material and design losses, alterations, and additions, the building no longer retains integrity of workmanship. Overall, little of the original early 19<sup>th</sup>-century construction methods, elements, or technology remains evident. Because of the loss of integrity of materials, design, and workmanship, the building no longer retains its feeling or association as an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural kitchen building.

**Pump House Shed (Pre-1940) – Contributing Building**

The Pump House Shed is a one-story, one-bay, one-room deep, wood-frame, rectangular building. It has a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, and a front-gable wood-shingle roof with wide-overhanging boxed eaves. The south façade has an entry with a single-leaf, board-and-batten door with strap hinges. A small brick landing, flush with the ground, is located just in front of the entry. The other elevations are devoid of any additional openings.

**Generator Shed (Post-1996, pre-2005) – Non-contributing Building**

The Generator Shed, which was constructed to complement the existing historic buildings, is a one-story, one-room deep, wood-frame, rectangular building. Slightly larger than the Pump House Shed, it has a concrete foundation, wood siding, and a front-gable wood shingle roof with wide-overhanging boxed eaves and eave returns. The south façade has a gable vent and an entry with a double-leaf board-and-batten door with strap hinges and louvered vents on the lower part of the door. A small brick

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patio/landing is located just in front of the entry.

Both the east and west elevations each have a single window with a six-over-six vinyl sash. Other than another gable vent, the rear, or north elevation, is devoid of any openings. However, an electrical box/meter and other pipes are fixed to the wall. Additional pipes and valves are located at the north end of the east (side) elevation.

**Bell Mounted on Wood Frame (Post-2001) – Non-contributing Object**

Located just east of the main parking area and adjacent to the main brick sidewalk, is a bell hanging from a metal beam supported by two, square wood posts. The pewter-colored bell is inscribed with “USLHS 1927” and attached to the metal beam at the top. Although made in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was originally located elsewhere and was just moved to this site in the early 2000s.

**Spanish Steamship Relic (Post-2001) – Non-contributing Object**

This iron steamship relic appears to be some sort of pump, perhaps a condensation pump, acquired from the wreckage of the *San Albano* on Virginia’s Hog Island in 1892. The rests on a thin circular base and has three distinct sections/components above. The lowest portion of the relic has a 1-2’ tall circular tube with a square panel fixed to one side. The middle section appears to be some sort of compression mechanism, and the upper portion consists of a tall metal tube/pipe. The sections are attached together, along with the square panel fixed to the base, with metal rivets.

**Entrance Sign & Maritime-Themed Display (Post-2001) – Non-contributing Object**

Located near the beginning of the driveway at the entrance to the property, just off US 13, is the free-standing, wood entrance sign for the Barrier Islands Center. A maritime-themed display, which includes a red buoy and an anchor, is located immediately adjacent to the entrance sign. The buoy is held upright and in place by a pile of rocks neatly placed around the base.

**Site/Formal Landscape Design (Post-2001) – Non-Contributing Site**

Created as part of a landscaping project shortly after the Barrier Islands Center acquired the property in 2001, the formal landscape design includes a gravel driveway and parking lot, paved circulation network, lighting, resting places, and interpretive signage.

The site is accessed from Young Street by a long, slightly curved, tree-lined, gravel driveway that culminates in a gravel parking area situated immediately adjacent to the main area of the site on the west side. A flagpole is situated in the center of the parking loop, which is located at the south end of the parking area. The remainder of the parking area, which is complete with planned spaces and parking blocks arranged in an arc, along with a concrete handicap parking pad, is bordered by a brick sidewalk, lined with decorative street-light poles, to the east.

The primary entrance to the interpretive area is located at the southeast corner of the parking lot where the brick sidewalk makes an ell. The main sidewalk, which leads directly to the front of the Main

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Almshouse building, is marked by bushes at the entry and is framed by mature trees, benches, and commemorative plaques along the length of the walkway. Decorative, street-light poles line the north side of the sidewalk.

A curved brick walkway, along the north side of the Main Almshouse building, connects the main sidewalk/front of the site to the remainder of the interpretive-area buildings. Additional brick sidewalks connect the rear of the Main Almshouse building to the Almshouse for African Americans and the Quarter Kitchen and the Quarter Kitchen to the Almshouse for African Americans. The remainder of the interpretive area largely consists of well-kept grassy lawns contained within a rectangular area that is defined by the bordering agricultural fields. Free-standing interpretive signage, on wood posts, identifies each of the three main buildings in the complex.

**Cemetery (Unknown Date) – Contributing Site**

A cemetery was discovered during a historical research project undertaken by the current owner. The site is located at the southwest corner of the area marked in the 1952 land survey (Figure 2). The visible pattern of rows shown in the 1938 USGS Aerial (see Figure 3) resembles a planned cemetery. Additionally, the location of the Pest House (or Plague House) at the southeast corner of that plot suggests a historical association between it and the burial site. During epidemics, pest houses usually were located immediately adjacent to cemeteries in order to bury the dead quickly to minimize potential for contagion.<sup>19</sup> Although the Pest House is no longer extant, Board of Supervisor's reports for the Poor House Farm at Machipongo include mention of the immediate erection of a Pest House in 1914 due to a smallpox epidemic.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, the large number of graves identified suggests a reasonable possibility of a burial area associated with the Pest House. This cemetery is located within the nominated boundary of The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo, but was not mentioned in the 2001 nomination. The land is currently used for agricultural purposes. While a Phase 1A survey would be necessary to document and, potentially, investigate the extent of the cemetery and delineate its boundary, sufficient evidence has been identified to classify this resource as a contributing site.

<sup>19</sup> "Pest Houses & The Ephemeral Architecture of Quarantine," *Archipedia New England*, p. 11, accessed March 30, 2021, [www.archipedianewengland.org/pest-houses-the-ephemeral-architecture-of-quarantine/](http://www.archipedianewengland.org/pest-houses-the-ephemeral-architecture-of-quarantine/).

<sup>20</sup> Board of Supervisors Minutes Information Packet, March 1914. NOTE: A second, better-documented cemetery historically was associated with the poor farm. It occupies a 2.14-acre site noted as the "Graveyard" on the 1952 land survey (Figure 2 above). As shown on this drawing, the approximate physical location of this cemetery is depicted north of the main 4.13-acre "yard" with the buildings. Today, the site is believed to be roughly located within the tree-filled area northwest of (beyond) the nominated boundary. The nominated boundary of the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo coincides with the property's present 17.89-acre parcel, while the cemetery became part of a different parcel when the former Almshouse Farm was subdivided in 2000. While the cemetery is not presently included within the nominated boundary, if the boundary were expanded in the future, this cemetery likely would be a contributing resource to the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo. Today, a wood cross at the edge of the tree line marks the cemetery site.

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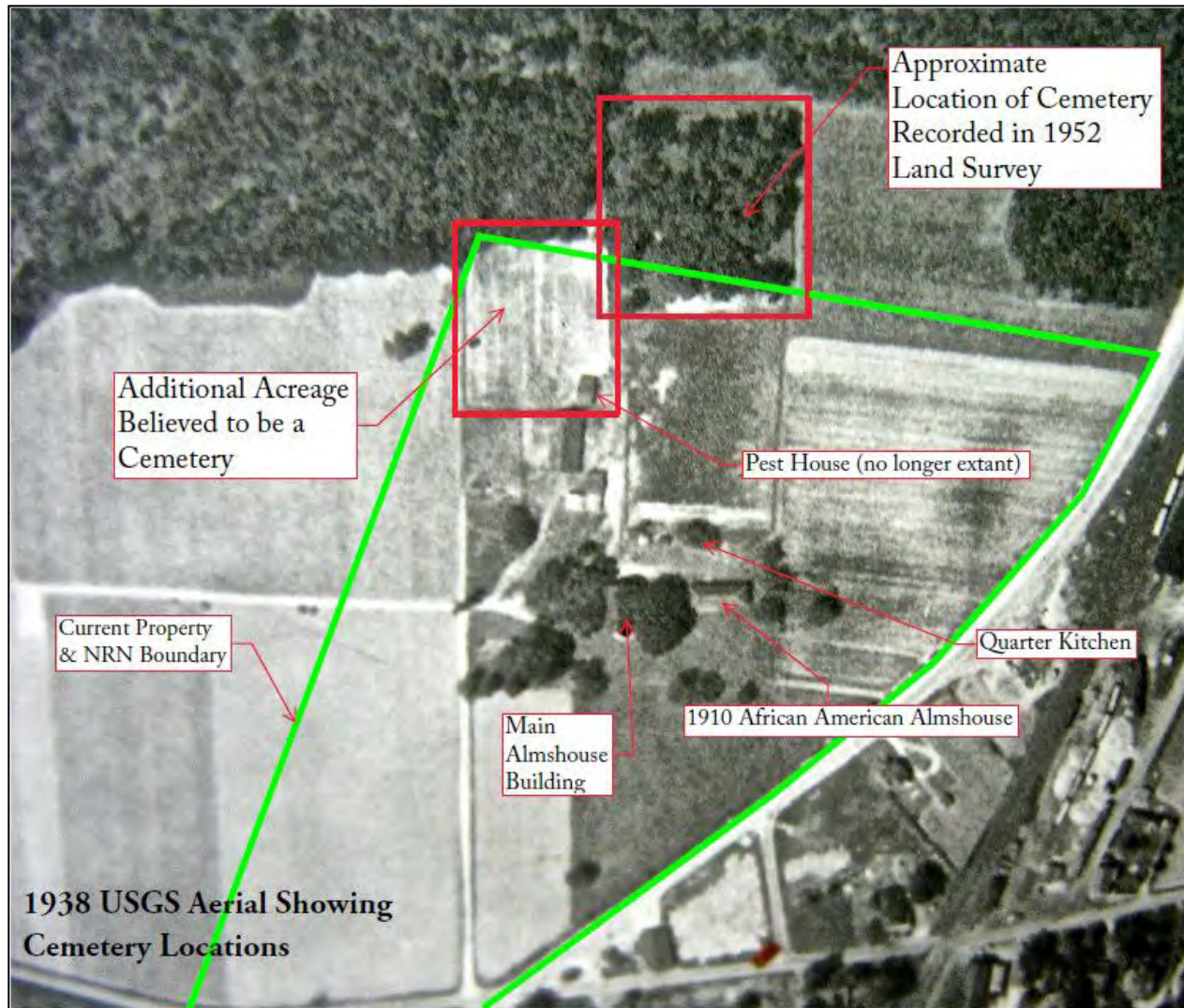
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**Figure 2: 1938 USGS Aerial Showing Cemetery Locations at the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo. The green line marks the nominated boundary. The red squares mark the approximate locations of each cemetery.**

**Integrity Analysis**

Many of the alterations that have occurred at The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo since 2001 have been undertaken to facilitate the property's adaptive reuse as a community center and a museum of maritime history, which has been important to Virginia's Eastern Shore economy and culture for centuries. After the property was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register, the property owner donated a permanent conservation easement to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. Such easements assure perpetual maintenance and preservation of historic properties; currently, more than

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600 places across Virginia are eased. The conservation easement is part of a property's deed, guaranteeing that it remains in place through any changes in property ownership. With former almshouses and poor farms an increasingly rare resource type in Virginia, The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo will be maintained as a historically and architecturally significant illustration of a rural aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> through mid-20<sup>th</sup> century social welfare programs. Its adaptive reuse was designed to continue serving the local community and necessitated many of the alterations described herein.

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo retains its integrity of location. With regard to the property's integrity of setting, several of the secondary resources have been lost since the poor farm closed in 1946, with most of the demolition occurring prior to 2001. A grain storage building was demolished since 2001 and more recent alterations to the Kitchen Quarter rendered the building noncontributing. The formal landscape design that was installed after 2001 also eroded the integrity of setting because the gravel driveway, brick walkways, flagpole, ornamental plantings, and benches are not elements that would have existed during the Almshouse's period of significance. All of the alterations are reversible. Spatial relationships among the extant buildings remain unchanged and the striking views of the surrounding rural landscape are evocative of the property's agricultural history. The property's nominated boundary encompasses the poor farm's primary complex as well as sufficient acreage to convey the character of its historic function and the significant c. 1914 cemetery. Thus, the present-day setting associated with the historic Almshouse Farm at Machipongo overall has moderate integrity.

The Main Almshouse has good integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, with the use of vinyl elements to replace the wood steps, decks, and railings at the building's three secondary entries being reversible alterations. The ADA-compliant ramp does not affect the building's integrity as the ADA is a federal civil rights law and such accommodations are required by the law. The Almshouse for African Americans has replacement doors and a replacement side deck where a porch called for in the building's original 1810 specifications was located. Two entries with replacement doors access the deck. A retractable awning, which was not present during the historic period, can be extended to shade the deck. The alterations are potentially reversible. As with the Main Almshouse, this building's ADA-compliant ramp does not affect its integrity. As explained above, the Quarter Kitchen's alterations since 2001 have rendered it noncontributing. The Pump House Shed has not been substantially altered since the property's Register listing. The Generator Shed is compatible in design and appearance to the historic complex, while the three noncontributing objects on the property are easily removable. Overall, therefore, the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship of the architectural resources is intact.

The simplicity of the architecture of the two almshouses continues to be evocative of the property's historic institutional use, which is integral to the property's ability to convey its significant historic associations. This crucial attribute, along with the property's integrity of location and setting and the ample historic documentation of the poor farm's operation, contribute to the property's integrity of feeling and association as a historic rural poor farm and almshouse for Black and White residents of Northampton County between 1802-1946, including Virginia's legally mandated segregation era that began during the 1890s (and ended during the 1960s, after the Almshouse had closed).

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**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.

**Period of Significance**

1802-1946

**Significant Dates**

1881 – Fire destroyed the original main almshouse building

c.v1883 – New main building constructed on foundation of previous almshouse

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: Holtzclaw Brothers – Charles Taylor Holtzclaw & William Holtzclaw

Contractor: John Hargis

**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 2001 nomination for The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo identified two areas of significance for the property: Social History under Criterion A and Architecture under Criterion C. The period of significance was 1725 to 1952. This additional documentation more precisely delineates the period of significance based on information discovered during more recent research and provides additional justification for the significance of the property. The additional documentation focuses on the African American and potential Native American history associated with the Almshouse, as well as the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century practice of “binding out” children in impoverished families.

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The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo (DHR ID 065-0053), located in Northampton County, Virginia, was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 2001. The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with the care of the county's poor and sick residents from the early 19<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because it retains two Almshouses, which are an increasingly rare resource type in Virginia, and the Main Almshouse has the distinction of having been designed by the Holtzclaw Brothers architectural firm, which was based in Hampton, Virginia. The firm specialized in large-scale commercial and institutional projects but the Northampton County Main Almshouse building is their only currently known commission in such a rural area. The period of significance begins in 1802, when the first almshouse was constructed on the property, and ends in 1946 when the almshouse closed.

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

**Criterion A**

Social History

As noted in the 2001 nomination, the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with Northampton County's and the Commonwealth of Virginia's system of care for indigent populations from the early-19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Subsequent research regarding African American, Native American history and labor history as associated with the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo comprises the following additional documentation in the area of Social History.

*African Americans at the Almshouse Farm*

Prior to the Civil War, the care of ill or destitute enslaved persons was usually expected to be managed by their enslaver, who had directly benefitted from their forced labor. Of the African Americans who resided at the Almshouse prior to the Civil War (1861-1865), the majority were free people of color.<sup>21</sup> The Overseer of the Poor Reports and inmate lists comprise most of the documentation found to date about African American people who lived at the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo. The Almshouse records include annual lists of residents. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the term "colored" was used by White government officials with regard for any person perceived to be of African, Native American, or mixed lineage, and it is possible that the Almshouse reports included people from all three groups.

Enslaved persons who were owned by the Almshouse institution itself were referred to as "property of the House" in the reports. One such individual was a man named Michael. An 1820 record mentioned

<sup>21</sup> Howard N Rabinowitz, "From Exclusion to Segregation: Health and Welfare Services for Southern Blacks, 1865-1890," *Social Service Review* 48, no. 3 (September 1974): pp. 327-354, <https://doi.org/http://www.jstor.com/stable/30015123>. p.327.

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that the person who enslaved a Black woman named Pleasant was not known. Pleasant had died after living at the Almshouse for three months. Poor house officials sought to bill her enslaver, at the rate of \$40 per annum, for her care. It is not known if the County successfully identified this person. In addition to adults, the Almshouse residents included “bound” or apprenticed children, who are discussed in further detail below.<sup>22</sup>

Between 1804-1881, the period that the original Almshouse building existed, African American residents of the poorhouse occupied its cellar. County reports include inmates’ names, an indication of their living quarters, discussions of the spaces they occupied, and information about their health and wellbeing (including smallpox inoculation status). An 1829 record has a list of “Negroes in the cellar” consisting of eleven African American individuals (see partial list in Figure 3 below).<sup>23</sup> The list identifies, by name, several free black persons: Tony [?], Jenny Taylor, [?] I[?] B[?], and Flora (all of whom were listed as about 70 years of age), and Bill (age 39) and Michael (age 14).

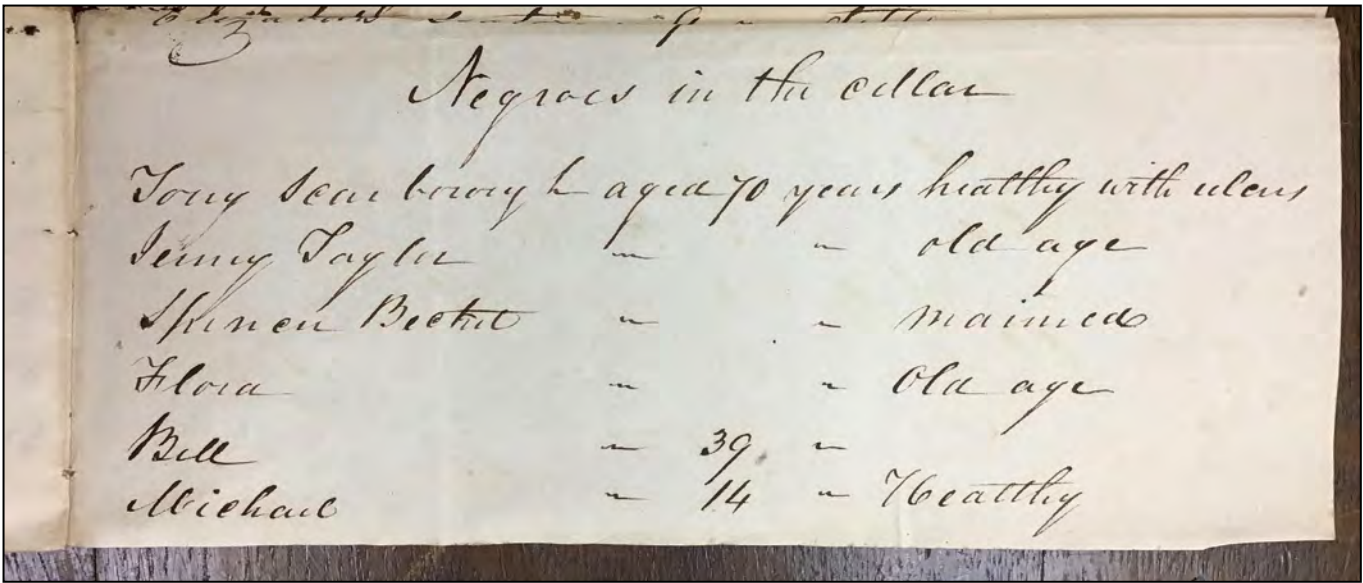


Figure 3: Excerpt from the 1829 Overseer of the Poor Report showing the list of African Americans living in the cellar of the Main Almshouse Building (Northampton County Clerk’s Office in Eastville, VA)

<sup>22</sup> 1820 Overseer of the Poor Report, page 5 – burials, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

<sup>23</sup> 1829 Overseer of the Poor Report, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

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**Table 1. Number of African Americans Recorded as Living in the Main Almshouse Cellar, By Year<sup>24</sup>**

Year	People
1820	Three names listed
1821	Three names listed
1827	Seven adult names, two children
1829	Eleven names listed
1830	Eleven names listed
1833	Two adults, two children, plus Michael ("property of the House")
1834	Four adults, plus Michael ("property of the House")
1841	Four adults and three "colored" "apprentices" ages 10, 7, and 5 years

In Virginia, racial segregation of almshouses and poor living conditions for African Americans and other people of color were common at such institutions, and the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo was no exception. In 1844, the first female Almshouse Steward, Ellen Dalby, advocated healthier living conditions for African Americans. Steward called for the construction of an 18ft. by 18ft. addition to the 1804 brick kitchen building, which would be used as living quarters for the poor farm's Black residents. This addition replaced the 1804 Almshouse building's cellar apartment, which was noted as "too dark and unhealthy for said paupers to live in."<sup>25</sup> Interestingly, in 1848, the directors of the Almshouse considered having a single dining room for all of the inmates to use. The discussion was unusual for its time because separation of the races had been a social custom in Virginia since the late 17th century. By the 1840s, Virginia's Slave Codes prohibited social mixing of enslaved African Americans and White people and also severely restricted the rights of free people of color. Had a single dining room been approved, most likely separate dining times for White and Black residents would have been used to maintain segregation. The discussion ended, however, with a vote of five in favor and six opposed. The reason for the proposal, such as, for example, to reduce operating costs, is not known.<sup>26</sup>

After the Civil War ended in 1865, a visitor to the poor farm described the bleak living conditions for African Americans. Of the 31 inmates then at the farm, 10 were African Americans. Due to the small size of the frame addition to the brick kitchen, segregation by sex was not possible for the African American residents. The frame addition also did not have a finished floor and the space was almost entirely without beds and blankets. The resultant suffering of the African Americans, many of whom were elderly, was "enough "to sicken the hardest heart" and "convince one that justice had not yet reached the African American race in this section of Virginia."<sup>27</sup> Meanwhile, in 1881, the original Main

<sup>24</sup> Overseer of the Poor Reports, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA, 1820-1841. Individual names are largely not legible, but it is possible to discern the number of inmates.

<sup>25</sup> 1844 Overseer of the Poor Report, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

<sup>26</sup> 1849 Overseer of the Poor Report, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

<sup>27</sup> "The Eastern Shore of Virginia Poorhouses Described in 1865: Freedmen Papers," Transcribed by Frances Bibbins Lattimer, Northampton County Almshouse archives of Barrier Islands Center Museum, Machipongo,

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Almshouse building for White inmates was destroyed by a fire, and a new building, completed in 1883, was erected on its foundation.

Records from 1902 and 1908 indicate that the African American residents had been moved to individual cabins sometime in the late 1870s or early 1880s. The genesis of the cabins is not known. They may have been erected as temporary housing for White residents after the 1804 Almshouse was destroyed by fire in 1881, then retained to relieve the crowded conditions in the makeshift Kitchen Quarter. The number of indigent African Americans, particularly those who were elderly, had increased after the Civil War, primarily due to widespread failures by the federal government to aid emancipated people with establishing autonomy and independence. Thus, the Almshouse Far at Machipongo may have needed additional capacity during the Reconstruction Era.<sup>28</sup> A 1902 newspaper article records that one such tenement, which was occupied by an African American family, was destroyed by fire.<sup>29</sup>

A 1908 poor farm visitor's observations give some insight into living conditions and the environment at the time. The visitor observed that cabins continued to house African American people, and comprised a total of twenty-two rooms. Estimated to have been built c. 1879, the observer described the cabins as being heated by fireplaces and woodstoves, lighted by oil lamps, and lacking an interior water source, such as a hand pump. By this time, most Black residents were separated by sex. A group of three elderly women, a young woman with a one-year-old child, and a blind man occupied a single room; it is not known if they shared kinship in some way. Operations at the poor farm apparently had declined, as the visitor noted that none of the people engaged in work during their visit.<sup>30</sup>

In 1908, the Commonwealth of Virginia released a study documenting the appalling conditions of poorhouses and called for localities to make improvements. Sources of funding for the improvements were not identified. In Northampton County, however, by 1910, the Almshouse at Machipongo hired a local contractor, David A. Dutton, to construct a new Almshouse for African American persons. Specifications called for a one-story frame building with plaster walls with 3'6" wainscoting, wood flooring, beaded ceilings, crown molding, twelve-light windows, and a slate roof. The plans also included a porch on the south side of the house with 6" turned columns.<sup>31</sup> The building, which still stands today, contained ten rooms and allowed its occupants to have additional space, privacy, improved access to natural light, and cleaner , more healthful living conditions.

Virginia, accessed August 27, 2020, p. 9-10.

<sup>28</sup> Howard N Rabinowitz, "From Exclusion to Segregation: Health and Welfare Services for Southern Blacks, 1865-1890," *Social Service Review* 48, no. 3 (September 1974): pp. 327-354, <https://doi.org/http://www.jstor.com/stable/30015123>. p. 331.

<sup>29</sup> *Richmond Dispatch*, 16 October 1902, p.8, (Chronicling America, Library of Virginia).

<sup>30</sup> Virginia State Board of Charities and Corrections, *Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections to the Governor of the Year Ending 1908/1909*. (Princeton University, 1909).

<sup>31</sup> "Specifications for the Colored Almshouse, Machipongo, Virginia," 1910, Loose Papers and Miscellaneous Files, Northampton County Clerk of Courts, Eastville, Virginia.

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*Potential Native American History at the Almshouse Farm*

Eighteenth- and antebellum nineteenth-century Virginia laws required free people of color to register with local authorities, one of many ways that their rights were restricted in comparison to their White counterparts. Virginia Indians, too, often felt pressured to register in order to secure their and their children's protection from being enslaved by unscrupulous slavecatchers. A Virginia Indian had to identify their tribe and provide proof that they were tribal members. Due to widespread discrimination, many White officials believed that no "real" Indians still lived in Virginia by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, despite that many tribes still occupied colonial-era reservations for which they had negotiated with British officials and ever since had managed to resist extreme pressure to sell their lands to White people. Surnames of some people in the Almshouse records that were associated with Native families at the Gingaskin Reservation near Eastville suggest the potential that a few Native Americans could have been inmates at the Almshouse. In 1794, several dozen people of color in Northampton County registered their free birth, and several more individuals from the Gingaskin Reservation registered for certificates of freedom, providing a basis for this theory.<sup>32</sup> At least one record exists regarding Molly Press, a Virginia Indian who was recorded as living at the Almshouse and was buried in the Almshouse Cemetery in 1826.<sup>33</sup> As late as 1837 a child, named Elizabeth Bingham, was "bound" out by the Almshouse to a Native American family named Collins.<sup>34</sup> As Bingham was among the Native American family names in Northampton County, it is possible the child was Native American. If so, the indenture may have been the only legal mechanism available to obtain custody of an orphaned Native child by a family in her tribe.<sup>35</sup>

*"Bound" Labor, Child "Apprenticeships," and the Almshouse*

Children were "bound" or "apprenticed" at the Almshouse at a young age, an arrangement that paid for the child's room and board and may have been the only option for a desperately poor family or for an orphan to survive. Such children were "bound out," through legally binding documents, as laborers for local families. "Bound" or "apprenticed" children were put to work in exchange for general care and education from the person to whom they had been bound. "Bound out" children, however, were neither indentured servants nor trade apprentices, as the person to whom they were indentured had to provide only for the child's basic necessities in exchange for years of labor by the child. An indentured servant received cash payment at the end of their indenture, while an apprentice learned a skill that provided them the means to earn an independent living. "Bound" children working on farms were guaranteed neither of these benefits, nor did they have much opportunity for a formal education as public schools were almost nonexistent in Virginia prior to 1870.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Thomas E. Davidson, Helen C. Rountree, *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* (United States: University Press of Virginia, 1997) p. 192

<sup>33</sup> Death of Molly Fisherman Press, Northampton County Will book, page 250, Northampton County Clerk of Courts, Eastville, VA.

<sup>34</sup> 1837 Overseer of the Poor Report, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

<sup>35</sup> Thomas E. Davidson, Helen C. Rountree, *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland*. (United States: University Press of Virginia, 1997) p. 219-224

<sup>36</sup> Ruth Wallis Herndon, "'Proper' Magistrates and Masters: Binding Out Poor Children in Southern New

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According to the standards of the time, ‘bound’ labor was considered charitable, as a child’s fate might otherwise be death from starvation, disease, or exposure. Only very poor children were candidates, making arrangement for “bound” labor a responsibility of county almshouses, in conjunction with the local government.<sup>37</sup> Both White and African American children could be “bound out.” Sometimes a woman would come with her children to live at the poor farm, usually after losing her husband to death, illness, or other misfortune.<sup>38</sup> In such cases, the mother might be given time to find a way to sustain herself and her child, which allowed a child to avoid being “bound out.” This was done at the discretion of Almshouse officials; a woman could not expect to live at an almshouse indefinitely with her child or children. Otherwise, local officials “bound out” such children, including infants, as quickly as they could find someone to take in a child.<sup>39</sup> In addition to children who had lost their father, children of indebted mothers, particularly those who also were unwed, typically were “bound out” to local families. A local account in the historic Freedmen Papers collection, which contained the registrations for free people of color and Virginia Indians, noted that an illegitimate child may be apprenticed up to twenty-one years of age if a male, or up to eighteen years of age if a female. Finally, as authorized by the county court, the Almshouse also “bound out” orphans.<sup>40</sup>

A June 1826 quarterly court hearing record in Northampton County states that the Overseer of the Poor was ordered to “bind out, according to law, Tony aged 8 years, Catherine aged 4 years, and Susan aged 2 years, free mulatto children of Molly Sample, to Nathan Drighouse to learn farming work.”<sup>41</sup> This practice was continued from the beginnings of the Almshouse through at least the 1840s, with a high concentration of records in the 1840s. An 1842 record, specifically, references the inability of parents to support their two children and that someone had been found who was willing to take the children, aged 10 and 16, to work as “apprentices” in a shop.<sup>42</sup> In most cases, the parents of “bound out” children never

England, 1720-1820,” in *Children Bound to Labor* (Cornell University Press, 2009), pp. 37-51.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt7z8zt.7>, p. 37-38.

<sup>37</sup> Monique Bourque, “Bound Out from the Almshouse: Community Networks in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1800-1860,” in *Children Bound to Labor* (Cornell University Press, 2009), pp. 71-83.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt7z8zt.9>, p. 71-73.

<sup>38</sup> Holly Brewer, “Apprenticeship Policy in Virginia: From Patriarchal to Republican Policies of Social Welfare,” in *Children Bound to Labor* (Cornell University Press, 2009), pp. 183-197. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt7z8zt.16>, p. 183.

<sup>39</sup> Monique Bourque, “Bound Out from the Almshouse: Community Networks in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1800-1860,” in *Children Bound to Labor* (Cornell University Press, 2009), pp. 71-83.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt7z8zt.9>, p. 75.

<sup>40</sup> “The Eastern Shore of Virginia Poorhouses Described in 1865: Freedmen Papers,” Transcribed by Frances Bibbins Lattimer, Northampton County Almshouse archives of Barrier Islands Center Museum, Machipongo, Virginia, accessed August 27, 2020, p. 13.

<sup>41</sup> Hayes Holloway, “Stories of the Almshouse Farm,” Barrier Islands Center, December 17, 2019, <http://www.barrierislandscenter.org/blog/2019/12/17/stories-of-the-almshouse-farm>. “Mulatto” is an archaic term used by White people to identify a person’s perceived racial lineage.

<sup>42</sup> 1842 Overseer of the Poor Report, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

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saw their children again. Some historians have drawn parallels between the practice of binding out to heritable slavery, as children were contracted for years of servitude due to the poverty of their parents, thus inheriting their status in much the same way as an enslaved child; a major difference, however, was that “bound” children worked for a limited time while slavery was a lifelong status.<sup>43</sup>

“Pauper” lists of the period indicate that, in addition to White and Black children, at least a few Native American children might have been “bound out” for service to the Almshouse. A record concerning the aforementioned Molly Press, a Native American woman, and her son, George, described how George, along with other children, had been “bound out” by the Almshouse to a local White man’s estate. In 1805, Molly brought the executor of the estate to court, seeking cause for her son’s “apprenticeship.” George was then freed.<sup>44</sup>

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo was charged with enforcing rules regarding the treatment of children. According to records from the Overseer’s Reports, any “cruel and unusual chastisement inflicted by any person or persons upon any poor child or children in said district” would be reported. The reports also indicate that anyone accused of child abuse would be reported to local authorities and cases were heard by a grand jury.<sup>45</sup> It is important to note that today’s standards regarding child abuse and neglect are very different from the historic period, and that, even at the time, opinions about acceptable care differed. As an example, a 1911 report from the State Board of Charities and Corrections accounts the instance of a three-year-old African American boy who had been placed in the hands of a man named T.C. Walker for the purpose of finding the boy a new home. Walker described the Almshouse as initially reluctant to give him the child, and stated that as little as 50 cents would have paid the cost of the boy’s clothing. He found it necessary to borrow clothing from a maid to wrap the boy, but, after delivering the child to a new family, he opined that they cared for him as much as any parents would and, thus, another child had been saved.<sup>46</sup>

**Criterion C**

Architecture

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its 1883 Main Almshouse and its 1910 Almshouse for African Americans, both of which are

<sup>43</sup> Holly Brewer, “Apprenticeship Policy in Virginia: From Patriarchal to Republican Policies of Social Welfare,” in *Children Bound to Labor* (Cornell University Press, 2009), pp. 183-197.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt7z8zt.16>. p.184.

<sup>44</sup> Thomas E. Davidson, Helen C. Rountree, *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* (United States: University Press of Virginia, 1997) p.188.

<sup>45</sup> 1836 Overseer of the Poor Report, Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, VA.

<sup>46</sup> T.C. Walker. “Placing Out Work Among Colored Children,” in *Annual Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections to the Governor of Virginia for the Year Ending September 30, 1911*. United States: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1911.

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increasingly rare institutional resource types in Virginia. Additionally, the 1883 building was designed by Virginia architects Charles Taylor Holtzclaw and William Holtzclaw at a time when most institutional buildings were built by local tradesmen with no formal architectural training. Based in Hampton, Virginia, the Holtzclaw Brothers were primarily known for designing prominent commercial institutional buildings in urbanized areas. Their work included the Chamberlain Hotel in Virginia Beach, the “old soldier’s home” (a reconstruction of Mount Vernon for a show), and the “Virginia Building” at the 1892 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.<sup>47</sup> In contrast, the Main Almshouse is on the remote Eastern Shore. The architectural design by the Holtzclaws drew upon then-prevalent Folk-Victorian influences, primarily represented in the front porch with its chamfered posts, M-braces, and molded wood railing. Original simple wood window surrounds, weatherboard siding, a slate-covered, side gable roof, boxes eaves with eave returns on the side elevations, and brick chimneys are all in situ as well.<sup>48</sup> The 1883 building’s construction was undertaken by a local contractor named John Hargis.

With regard to the property’s overall design, the poor farm historically encompassed considerably more acreage than the nominated property’s current 17.89 acres. Historic records mention several agricultural outbuildings, including two barns, a smokehouse, and a corn stack, but all of these were demolished prior to 2001. The 1914 Pest House also was removed at an unknown date. The property still has archaeological potential, particularly with regard to the cemetery at the northwest corner and, potentially, the Pest House site. Continued farming of the cemetery at the northwest corner of the nominated property is incompatible with protection of the burials. Within the main complex, the extensive post-2001 landscaping may have adversely affected any cultural deposits in the immediate vicinity of the extant buildings. The Quarter Kitchen, an increasingly rare resource type, no longer is contributing due to extensive alterations since 2001.

As noted above in the integrity analysis, The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to be eligible for the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. This is due largely to the continued moderate integrity of the Main Almshouse, the Almshouse for African Americans, and the Pump House as well as retention of a small amount of the historic agricultural acreage. The institutional character of the complex is still apparent, and is conveyed largely through the austere architectural design of the two almshouses, simplicity of the Pump House Shed, and unobtrusive nature of the noncontributing Generator Shed and the three maritime museum-related noncontributing objects. Spatial relationships among the buildings, orientation of the property toward the adjacent roads, and continued agricultural character of the larger setting also are important to the property’s historic sense of time and place. Finally, the obvious secondary quality of the Almshouse for African American in terms of its simpler design, smaller size, and placement behind the Main Almshouse are all indicative of the historic practice of separate-and-unequal public accommodations for Black Virginians. Such inequities were

<sup>47</sup> Wells E. John and Dalton E. Robert, *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997). P.203-205

<sup>48</sup> The drawing is recorded as being located at the Northampton County circuit court, but it is missing.

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typical of all public accommodations in Virginia prior to the 1960s, and, therefore, also add to the property's architectural significance as an illustration of the effects of such discriminatory practices. Landscapes of segregation are still common in Virginia, but the Almshouse Farm at Machipongo's is particularly intact and offers important opportunities for future study and comparative analyses to add to scholarship regarding this topic.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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**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, Richmond, Virginia;  
Northampton County Clerk of Courts Office, Eastville, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR #065-0053

**10. Geographical Data**

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.405920 Longitude: -75.905480

2. Latitude: 37.405180 Longitude: -75.902890

3. Latitude: 37.402370 Longitude: -75.906920

4. Latitude: 37.402710 Longitude: -75.907760

**11. Form Prepared By**

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date: March 2024

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

City or Vicinity: Machipongo

County: Northampton

State: Virginia

Photographer: Victoria Leonard

Date Photographed: March 23, 2021

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

Photo Number of 42	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
1	Site/Formal Landscape: Gravel Driveway & Parking Area	NE	3/23/2021	VL
2	Site/Formal Landscape: Tree-lined Gravel Driveway	SW	3/23/2021	VL
3	Entrance Sign & Maritime-Themed Display	S	3/23/2021	VL
4	Site/Formal Landscape: Gravel Parking Area, Flagpole	S	3/23/2021	VL
5	Spanish Steamship Relic	S	3/23/2021	VL
6	Bell Mounted on Wooden Frame	E	3/23/2021	VL
7	Site: View Toward General Location of Cemeteries	NE	3/23/2021	VL

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo  
(Update 2024)

Name of Property

Northampton County, VA

County and State

02000317

NR Reference Number

Section number Additional Documentation

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Photo Number of 42	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
8	View of Site Toward Buildings/Main Interpretive Area	SE	3/23/2021	VL
9	Site: View Toward Primary Entrance to Interpretive Area	SE	3/23/2021	VL
10	Site: Primary Sidewalk Leading to Main Almshouse/Interpretive Area	E	3/23/2021	VL
11	Main Interpretive Area Site/Walkways, View Toward African American Almshouse and Quarter Kitchen	SE	3/23/2021	VL
12	NE Corner of Main Interpretive Area, View Toward Three Main Buildings	W	3/23/2021	VL
13	SE Corner of Main Interpretive Area, View Toward African American Almshouse and Main Almshouse	NW	3/23/2021	VL
14	Main Almshouse Façade/West Elevation	E	3/23/2021	VL
15	Main Almshouse, Front Porch Detail	SE	3/23/2021	VL
16	Main Almshouse, Corner of South and East Elevations	NW	3/23/2021	VL
17	Main Almshouse, Reconstructed Rear Porch Detail	NW	3/23/2021	VL
18	Main Almshouse, Corner of East and North Elevations	SW	3/23/2021	VL
19	Almshouse for African Americans, Corner of West and North Elevations	SE	3/23/2021	VL
20	Almshouse for African Americans, Corner of East and North Elevations	SW	3/23/2021	VL
21	African American Almshouse, Corner of West and South Elevations	NE	3/23/2021	VL
22	Quarter Kitchen, Façade/South Elevation	N	3/23/2021	VL
23	Quarter Kitchen, Corner of West and South Elevations	NE	3/23/2021	VL
24	Quarter Kitchen, West Elevation and Surrounding Patio	E	3/23/2021	VL
25	Quarter Kitchen, Corner of North and West Elevations Including Surrounding Patio	SE	3/23/2021	VL
26	Quarter Kitchen, North Elevation	S	3/23/2021	VL
27	Quarter Kitchen, Corner of East and North Elevations	SW	3/23/2021	VL
28	Quarter Kitchen, Corner of South and East Elevations	NW	3/23/2021	VL
29	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Masonry Section, First Floor	NW	11/21/2019	VL
30	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Masonry Section, First Floor	NE	11/21/2019	VL
31	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Masonry Section, Entrance/Door Detail	S	11/21/2019	VL
32	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Masonry Section, Attic/Loft	W	11/21/2019	VL
33	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Masonry Section, Attic/Loft East Wall and Window Detail	NE	11/21/2019	VL

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

The Almshouse Farm at Machipongo  
(Update 2024)

Name of Property

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Page 33

Photo Number of 42	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
34	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Frame Section, First Floor	NW	11/21/2019	VL
35	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Frame Section, First Floor	NE	11/21/2019	VL
36	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Frame Section, First Floor, Entrance/Door Detail	S	11/21/2019	VL
37	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Frame Section, View from First Floor Up to Attic/Loft	N	11/21/2019	VL
38	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Frame Section, Attic/Loft	W	11/21/2019	VL
39	Quarter Kitchen, Interior of Frame Section, Attic/Loft	SW	11/21/2019	VL
40	Pump House Shed, Corner of South (Façade) and East Elevations	NW	3/23/2021	VL
41	Generator Shed, Corner of South (Façade) and East Elevations	NW	3/23/2021	VL
42	Corner of West and North Elevations of Pump House Shed (left) and Generator Shed (right)	SE	3/23/2021	VL

**Historic Images Log**

Figure No.	Caption
1	1952 Land Survey Blueprint of the Almshouse Farmland at Machipongo. Image courtesy of the Barrier Islands Center archives.
2	1938 USGS Aerial Showing Cemetery Locations at the Almshouse Farmland at Machipongo (Image Courtesy of Miriam Riggs – accessed 2016, US Department of Agriculture Office in Accomack, Virginia 23301)
3	Excerpt from the 1829 Overseer of the Poor Report showing the list of African Americans living in the cellar of the Main Almshouse building (Northampton County Clerk's Office in Eastville, VA)



## Legend

 County Boundaries

## TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

The Almshouse Farm at  
Machipongo

Northampton County, VA

DHR No. 065-0053



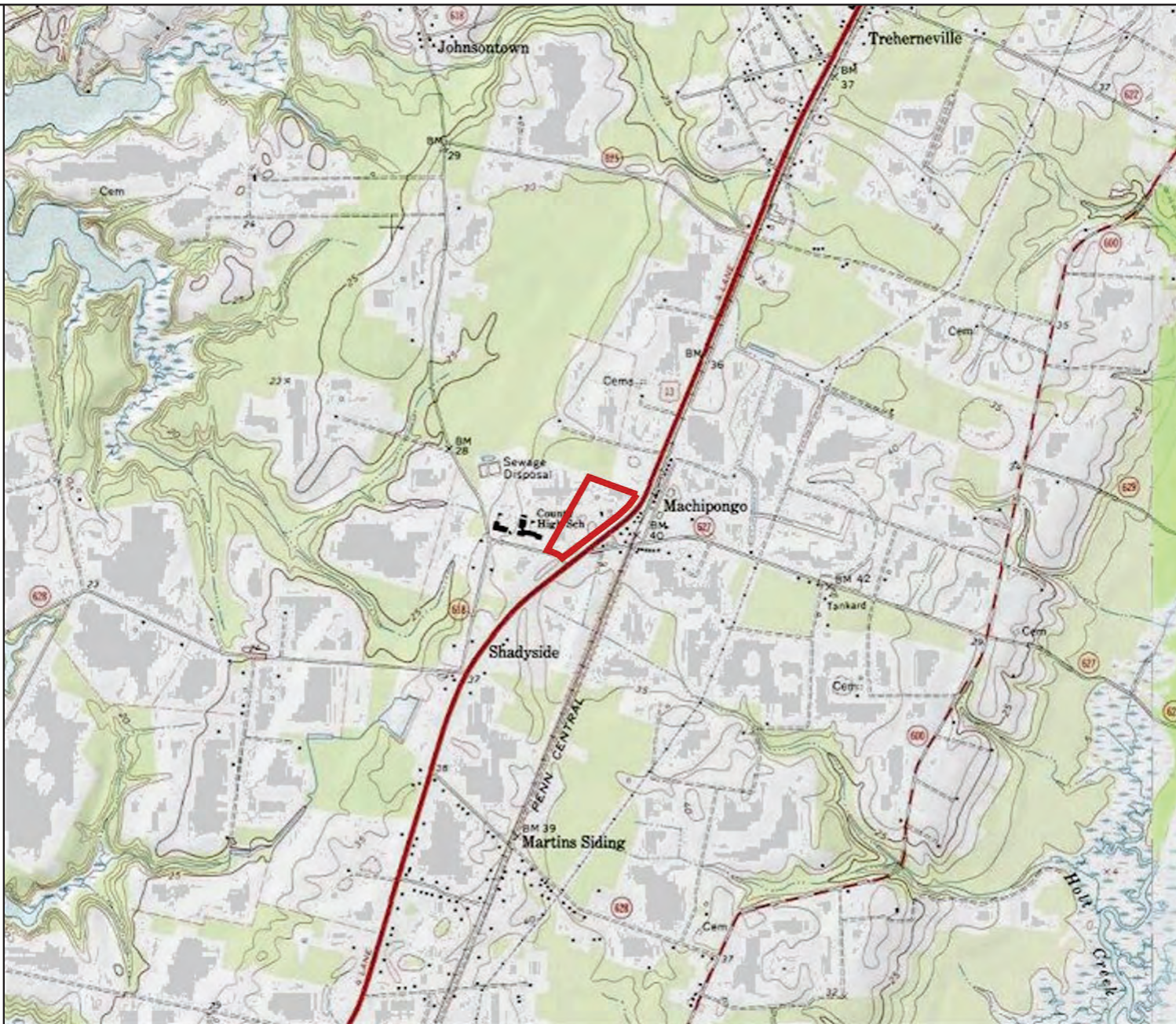
Nominated Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

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



**Title:**

**Date:** 4/28/2024

*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

The Almshouse Farm at  
Machipongo 2024 Update  
Northampton County, VA  
DHR No. 065-0053

 Nominated Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

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



**Title:**

**Date: 4/28/2024**

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## Legend

 County Boundaries

## LOCATION MAP

The Almshouse Farm at  
Machipongo 2024 Update  
Northampton County, VA  
DHR No. 065-0053

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 37.405920

Longitude: -75.905480

2. Latitude: 37.405180

Longitude: -75.902890

3. Latitude: 37.402370

Longitude: -75.906920

4. Latitude: 37.402710

Longitude: -75.907760



Nominated Boundary



Feet

0 200 400 600 800

1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet



**Title:**

**Date: 4/28/2024**

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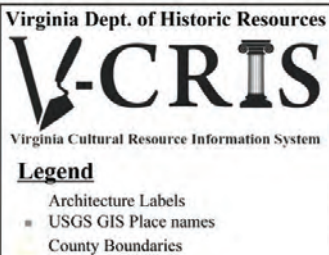
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## SKETCH MAP

# THE ALMSHOUSE FARM AT MACHIPONGO 2024 UPDATE

Northampton County, Virginia

DHR No. 065-0053



**Title: Almshouse Farm at Machipongo - Sketch Map**

**Date: 8/18/2021**

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## List of Resources

- Main Almshouse (contributing)
- Almshouse for African Americans (contributing)
- Pump House Shed (contributing)
- Cemetery (contributing)
- Quarter Kitchen (noncontributing)
- Formal Landscape Design (noncontributing)
- Entrance Sign and Maritime-Themed Display (noncontributing)
- Spanish Steamship Relic (noncontributing)
- Bell Mounted on Wood Frame (noncontributing)
- Generator Shed (noncontributing)

# Photo Key

The Almshouse Farm at  
Machipongo  
Northampton County, VA  
2024 Update  
DHR No. 065-0053

