



# NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY | JUNE 2020



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this national heritage area feasibility study to determine if the Northern Neck study area meets the criteria to be eligible for designation as a national heritage area (NHA). The study meets the requirements of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (NPS 2003) and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The Northern Neck study area on the Atlantic coast of Virginia includes the five counties found between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers: King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland. The Northern Neck peninsula, the northernmost Virginian peninsula in the Tidewater region, extends 70 miles into the Chesapeake Bay and is only 20 miles across at its widest point. This small area of land has historically been defined by its waterways, rural setting, and connections to several early American political leaders as the “birthplace of presidents.”

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate state historic preservation offices, state historical societies, and other appropriate organizations, to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as the Northern Neck National Heritage Area in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). The goal of the study was to determine if the study area meets the criteria established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* for designation. The study was initiated in 2009.

A copy of the law authorizing the study can be found in appendix A.

## PLANNING HISTORY

The feasibility study was initiated in the fall of 2009 by the NPS Northeast Regional Office (NERO) Planning Division. NERO staff conducted reconnaissance trips starting in late 2009 and continuing through summer 2011 to communicate with local stakeholders, work to identify a potential local coordinating entity, and gather information about Northern Neck resources. NERO staff collaborated with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission (NNTC) throughout the study process to organize local public outreach events. Together, these two entities organized the May 2010 public informational meetings, the February 2011 interpretive themes workshop, and the August 2013 scholars’ roundtable. The study team used information from these public outreach opportunities along with additional context information provided by stakeholders and financial information from the Northern Neck Tourism Commission to create a preliminary draft of the Northern Neck National Heritage Area feasibility study. This draft document was submitted for internal NPS agency review in early 2016.

In fall 2016, the project was shared with the NPS Denver Service Center – Planning Division for assistance incorporating NPS program review comments and refining the national significance narrative and associated interpretive themes. In fall 2017, an interagency draft was shared with the other federal land management agencies per the study’s authorizing legislation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Navy) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, as the representative of the Governor’s Office. In response to comments received from these agencies, a second scholars’ roundtable was held in October 2018 to consider recent academic research related to the NHA study area.

A revised draft study was submitted in spring 2019 for internal agency review and approval. Following that review and internal approval from the NPS Washington Support Office, the Northeast Regional Office, and the NHA program, the revised draft was submitted for interagency concurrence from other federal land managers active in the Northern Neck study. There were no interagency objections to the findings in this final draft to be transmitted to Congress by the Department of the Interior.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Extensive public outreach was conducted before and during the study process. In October 2009, the NPS study team began the feasibility study process with a reconnaissance trip to Northern Neck and met extensively with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission, the heritage tourism branch of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC). The team created a NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website for the project (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=31631>) to share background information about the planning process and the National Heritage Area program with the public. This site also posted information about public outreach activities organized by the study team. In February 2010, the study team hosted members of the Northern Neck Tourism Commission and interested parties for a stakeholder information session at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, the only existing NPS unit within the study area.

Working closely with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission, the NPS study team organized five informational meetings held during the week of May 24, 2010. These meetings were held in public venues and had approximately 250 attendees (figure ES-1). NPS NERO staff presented background information on the feasibility study, answered questions about the benefits and potential restrictions associated with a national heritage area designation, and collected suggestions for nationally important stories and resources associated with the Northern Neck study area. Meeting materials were later posted to the project PEPC site. See appendix F for a summary of the public scoping meeting notes.

From spring 2010 to summer 2011, NPS NERO staff continued to meet with local stakeholders, including property managers, landowners, and organizations dedicated to the preservation and conservation of study area resources that could be included in a potential national heritage area. An interpretive themes workshop was held in February 2011 to begin identifying potential themes of national significance related to Northern Neck natural, historic, and scenic resources noted during NPS team visits. Approximately 30 participants associated with local stakeholder groups worked with NPS interpretive staff and planners to outline connections that could be recognized within a national heritage area. The first scholars' roundtable was held in August 2013. Approximately 20 subject-matter experts gathered at Stratford Hall, a historic site in the study area, to discuss the preliminary nationally significant story and themes suggested during public outreach events and the interpretive themes session. Outcomes from the 2010 public outreach events and 2013 scholars' roundtable are included in appendix E. A second scholars' roundtable focusing on recent academic research and refining the nationally significant story associated with the study area was held at George Washington Birthplace National Monument in October 2018. Conversations from the roundtable helped inform the feasibility study's discussion of nationally significant landscapes as well as a brief history of the Northern Neck included in chapter 2 (see appendix G).



**FIGURE ES-1. 2010 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

## **STUDY FINDINGS**

The feasibility study team used 10 evaluation criteria for a potential NHA designation based on the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* to evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of potentially creating a Northern Neck National Heritage Area (NPS 2003) (table ES-1). The legislation directing this study—P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8102. Northern Neck, Virginia (2009)—also included 13 requirements (Criterion A-M, see table ES-2) specific to the feasibility study; these criteria closely align with the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

The study team identified several themes of national significance related to the study area that are represented by extant natural, cultural, and historic resources found throughout the five included counties, therefore meeting criterion 1. Continuing agricultural practices, maritime traditions, foodways, and a defined regional identity first established in the 17th century represent customs and traditions related to the area’s significance, and therefore the study area meets criterion 2.

The study area’s potential for future conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities meets NHA criteria 3 and 4. Resources related to themes identified in this feasibility study retain a level of integrity that supports interpretation and therefore meet criterion 5.

The study team finds that criteria 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are met because of local support and the continuing efforts of the NNPDC/NNTC, a local government body representing the five-county study area that was also identified as the potential local coordinating entity.

As a result, the Northern Neck study area appears to meet the 10 national heritage area evaluation criteria, as well as the specific criteria of P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8102, and is found eligible according to NPS guidelines for potential national heritage areas.

**Table ES-1. NHA Feasibility Study Criteria Summary**

Criteria	Meets Criteria
<b>Criterion 1:</b> The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinct aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities and by contributing diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.	Yes
<b>Criterion 2:</b> The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.	Yes
<b>Criterion 3:</b> The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.	Yes
<b>Criterion 4:</b> The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.	Yes
<b>Criterion 5:</b> Resources that are important to the identified theme(s) of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.	Yes
<b>Criterion 6:</b> Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.	Yes
<b>Criterion 7:</b> The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.	Yes
<b>Criterion 8:</b> The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.	Yes
<b>Criterion 9:</b> A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.	Yes
<b>Criterion 10:</b> The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.	Yes

**Table ES-2. Public Law 111-11 Feasibility Study Criteria Summary**

Criteria	Meets Criteria
<b>Criterion A:</b> The study area has an assemblage of natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational resources that together are nationally important to the heritage of the United States.	Yes
<b>Criterion B:</b> The study area represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use.	Yes
<b>Criterion C:</b> The study area is best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level.	Yes
<b>Criterion D:</b> The study area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the heritage of the United States.	Yes
<b>Criterion E:</b> The study area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic features.	Yes
<b>Criterion F:</b> The study area provides outstanding recreational or educational opportunities.	Yes
<b>Criterion G:</b> The study area contains resources and has traditional uses that have national importance.	Yes
<b>Criterion H:</b> The study area includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and appropriate federal agencies and state and local governments that are involved in the planning of, and have demonstrated significant support for, the designation and management of the proposed heritage area.	Yes
<b>Criterion I:</b> The study area has a proposed local coordinating entity that is responsible for preparing and implementing the management plan developed for the proposed heritage area.	Yes
<b>Criterion J:</b> The study area, with respect to the designation of the study area, has the support of the proposed local coordinating entity and appropriate federal agencies and state and local governments, each of which has documented the commitment of the entity to work in partnership with the other entity to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the resources located in the study area.	Yes
<b>Criterion K:</b> The study area, through the proposed local coordinating entity, has developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the federal government) in the management of the proposed heritage area.	Yes
<b>Criterion L:</b> The study area has a proposal that is consistent with continued economic activity within the area.	Yes
<b>Criterion M:</b> The study area has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public and appropriate federal agencies.	Yes

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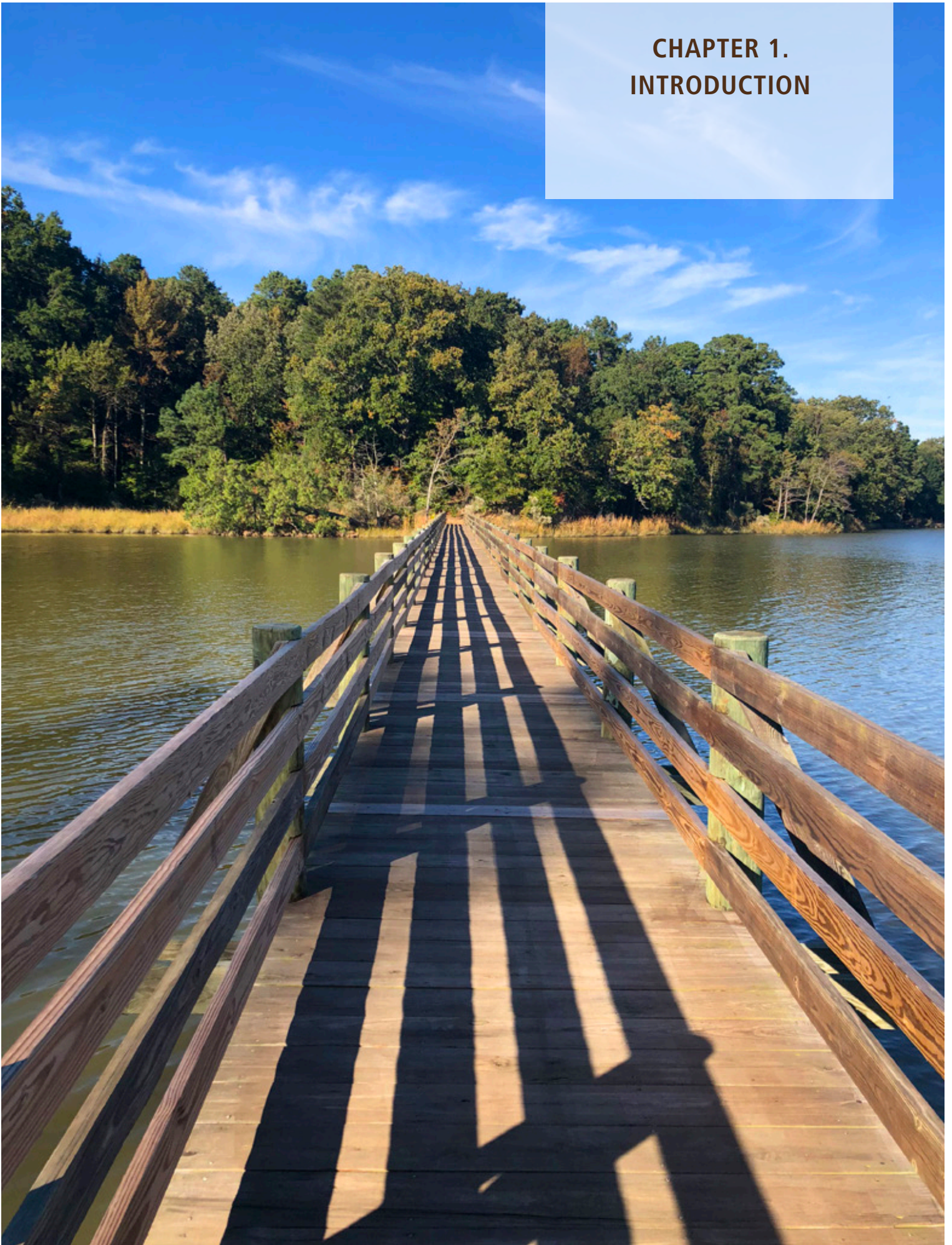
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**CHAPTER 1.  
INTRODUCTION**



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# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NORTHERN NECK

Waterways define the northern most peninsula on Virginia’s western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The peninsula is bordered by the Potomac River to the north, the Rappahannock River to the south, the headwaters of those rivers to the west, and the Chesapeake Bay to the east. The American Indian tribe connected to the peninsula used the same word to identify themselves, the river, and the land they called home—Rappahannock, “where the tide ebbs and flows.” The same land has been known as the Northern Neck since the earliest colonial settlement of Virginia. Today, the area is comprised of the five counties—King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster, Virginia—and their adjacent waterways (figure 1). While the peninsula is less than a two-hour drive from the District of Columbia, it has yet to experience the suburban development of the other two Virginian mainland peninsulas; it retains a rural sense of place and a population of approximately 76,000 over an area of 1,174 square miles. Agriculture--primarily in the form of the peninsula’s nine vineyards; traditional row crops of corn, wheat, barley, and soybeans; and timber—and aquaculture continue to be two of the area’s leading economic industries alongside heritage tourism and government/research jobs related to the Naval Support Facility in King George County.

The Northern Neck remains a well-defined place in the geography of Virginia and in the cultural geography of its inhabitants. While the peninsula is rather small, measuring only 20 miles across at its widest point, the Northern Neck includes a variety of natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources related to the area’s continued agricultural use, local communities’ history of oyster harvesting and menhaden fishing, and 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century architecture. The Northern Neck is also recognized as the “birthplace of presidents” because it contains the birthplace sites of George Washington, James Madison, and James Monroe.

## PURPOSE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The purpose of this national heritage area (NHA) feasibility study is to determine whether an assemblage of historic sites and resources in northeastern Virginia meets the suitability and feasibility criteria for the Northern Neck study area to be eligible for the designation as a national heritage area. Preparation of the study was delegated to the National Park Service (NPS) by the Secretary of the Interior, as directed by Congress in section 8102 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). The section of the act pertaining to the Northern Neck can be found in appendix A of this document.

## STUDY AREA

The study area for the potential Northern Neck National Heritage Area is the northernmost of the three peninsulas of land in the state of Virginia that extend into the Chesapeake Bay, see figure 1. Congress directed the study to consider the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers including the five counties of King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster, along with adjacent lands related by theme or geography.



**FIGURE 1. THE NORTHERN NECK STUDY AREA**

As directed by the legislation, this study considered these five counties as well as areas west in adjacent Stafford County and areas south of the Rappahannock in Essex County. The proposed boundary for the potential national heritage area is the five counties of the Northern Neck from King George to Lancaster and extending into the adjacent waterways. This boundary is based on the assemblage of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that are present throughout this area and together represent the distinctive aspects of American heritage on Virginia’s Northern Neck.

The rationale for extending the boundary of the proposed national heritage area beyond the shoreline itself was because of the integral connection between the people of the Northern Neck and the marine resources that surround it. Over four centuries, the people of the Northern Neck have been dependent on access to these waterways. These waterways served as a source of sustenance and economic vitality stemming from the rich marine resources the waters held. They also served as the primary means of transportation for people coming into and out of the Northern Neck and for the products of the Northern Neck to reach outside markets. In the earliest days, these waterways provided transportation routes for American Indians as well as for some of the first European explorers and settlers. In later years, these same waterways served to isolate the Northern Neck peninsula as transportation moved toward more land-based methods, in effect helping to preserve the distinct landscape and traditions of the Northern Neck.



## DEFINITION OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

According to NPS guidelines, a national heritage area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make national heritage areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of national heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

National heritage areas are managed by a local entity in partnership with various stakeholders and partners. These stakeholders and partners include individual citizens; local, state, and federal governments; and nonprofit and private sector groups. Together, these entities work to preserve the integrity of the area's distinct landscape and local stories so that current and future generations understand this relationship to the land.

Using this approach, national heritage areas are based on their constituents' pride in their history and traditions and their interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting their special landscapes. Heritage areas work across political boundaries to collaboratively shape a plan for preserving the area's unique and distinct qualities.

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system nor is any of its land owned or managed by the National Park Service, unless such land was previously set aside as a unit of the national park system. If land within the established boundaries of a national heritage area is owned by the federal government, it is as a result of other legislation establishing a military installation, national forest, or other federal property. However, the designation of a national heritage area does not preclude the creation of new national park system units within the area boundaries.

The federal government does not acquire land, manage land, or improve land use controls through the creation of a national heritage area. Rather, national heritage areas accomplish their goals through partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. The National Park Service is a partner and advisor; decision-making authority is retained by the local people and communities.

The heritage area designation process often begins with a community initiative to seek federal recognition as an official national heritage area. The first step in this process is called a feasibility study, in this case authorized by Congress through the urging of local community members. A feasibility study examines a region's history and resources and provides a strong foundation for eventual success as a national heritage area. The Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service (as the federal body charged with managing the national heritage areas program) are usually tasked by Congress to conduct these studies and attest to whether a region has the resources and local financial and organizational capacity to carry out the responsibilities that come with designation. Based on the study findings, the Secretary of the Interior then makes a recommendation to Congress. Should the Secretary recommend designation of a Northern Neck National Heritage Area, congressional legislation would still be necessary to designate it a national heritage area. The ultimate determination of national heritage area designation is made by Congress.

For more information on national heritage areas, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/>.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

National heritage area designation has been shown to assist in improving local, regional, and state economic conditions. According to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, some of the benefits include leveraging federal dollars with local support, increasing community partnerships, conservation of resources, improvement to quality of life, and sustainable economic strategies. Additional sales, jobs, payroll, and taxes paid to local governments may result from heritage area designation. In 2013, heritage areas contributed \$12.9 billion to the national economy. This economic activity supported 148,000 jobs and \$1.2 billion in tax revenue.<sup>1</sup> Heritage areas have been able to award grants to local subrecipients for projects such as historic structure work, trails work, and educational programs.

National heritage areas represent a legislated commitment to expanding the economic benefits of heritage tourism. As a source for details describing the economic impacts and benefits of heritage tourism, the National Trust for Historic Preservation describes it as follows:

- What is heritage tourism? “Heritage tourism is ‘traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present.’”
- What are the benefits of heritage tourism? “In addition to creating new jobs, new business, and higher property values, well-managed tourism improves the quality of life and builds community pride. According to a 2009 national research study on U.S. cultural and heritage travel by Mandala Research, 78% of all U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural and/or heritage activities while traveling, translating to \$118.3 million adults each year. Cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average, \$994 per trip compared to \$611 for all U.S. travelers. Perhaps the biggest benefits of cultural heritage tourism, though, are diversification of local economics and preservation of a community’s unique character.”<sup>2</sup>

## COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

National heritage areas expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship. They typically support community-based initiatives that connect citizens to the preservation and planning processes of local heritage stewardship. Through the efforts of a recognized local coordinating entity, numerous stakeholders come together to improve the regional quality of life through the protection of shared cultural and natural resources. This cooperative approach also allows national heritage areas to achieve both conservation goals and economic growth in ways that do not compromise local land use controls.

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system, and no land is owned or managed by the National Park Service. National Park Service involvement is advisory in nature, and the agency does not make management decisions. Once a national heritage area is designated by Congress, the National Park Service partners with local community members to help plan and implement activities that emphasize heritage-based interpretation, conservation, and development projects. Federal funding and technical assistance is provided to national heritage area coordinating entities. Most legislation

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1. Alliance of National Heritage Areas, “Supporting Regional Economies: National Heritage Areas and Their Impact,” accessed March 2019, <https://www.riversofsteel.com/uploads/files/Appendix%20A%20Supporting%20Regional%20Economies%20National%20Heritage%20Areas%20and%20Their%20Impact.pdf>.

designating national heritage areas explicitly prohibit the local coordinating entity from using federal funds it receives to acquire real property.

The designation of a national heritage area does not provide the federal government or any associated coordinating entity the authority to regulate land, land uses, or property rights. The land use, zoning, and development controls of private property remain fully under the jurisdiction of the local governments in the area. Participation in projects associated with the national heritage area program is always voluntary and private landowners retain all rights to lands and resources located within a national heritage area.

## THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

This national heritage area feasibility study has been prepared with the direction provided by the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (NPS 2003).<sup>2</sup> These guidelines provide a process to evaluate the feasibility for designating this collection of historic sites and resources as a national heritage area. In general, the objectives of this feasibility study, as related to the Northern Neck study area, are to:

- Identify and define the geographic extent of the Northern Neck study area that will be the primary focus of the feasibility study research, documentation, and inventory.
- Evaluate the potential for heritage tourism in the Northern Neck study area and local interest in the development of a national heritage area.
- Identify the national importance of the Northern Neck study area and identify an interpretive thematic framework for understanding how the resources in the study area contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape.
- Inventory and evaluate the potential of resources in the study area to support understanding of the nationally important historic themes of the Northern Neck.
- Verify whether or not there is public support and a strong local commitment by a coordinating entity to manage a national heritage area in the Northern Neck.
- Determine if the Northern Neck study area meets all ten criteria to be eligible for recommendation as a potential national heritage area (see criteria listed below).

The above overall objectives of the feasibility study were completed through a step-by-step public process that incorporated input from the public, managers of local sites, and subject-matter experts. As the feasibility study developed, additional resource inventories and documentation were conducted to provide a more complete understanding of all the resources that may contribute to the national importance of the study area. The feasibility study process included the following phases.

1. Information gathering and public input
  - Identified the study area's contribution to national heritage using information provided by the public, site managers, and subject-matter experts.
  - Conducted public meetings to gather information on study area resources, existing heritage tourism and preservation organizations, and potential local management entities.

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2. An electronic copy of the NHA feasibility study guidelines is available for download at [www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/feasibility-studies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/feasibility-studies.htm).

- Drafted a narrative that explores the national importance of the study area and how it contributes to our national heritage.
  - Developed themes that provide a framework for interpretation and focused the feasibility study efforts on resources that can support these themes.
  - Conducted an inventory and site research into the resources that have the potential to support the identified themes and which collectively form a nationally distinctive landscape.
2. Preparation of feasibility study
    - Developed a feasibility study for NPS program review.
    - Refined the feasibility study based on additional research and local stakeholder feedback.
  3. Completion of study and transmittal document
    - Made a final determination as to whether the collection of resources in the study area meets the ten criteria for evaluation of potential national heritage area designation.
    - Findings are transmitted to the Secretary and then Congress for consideration.

## **TEN CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A POTENTIAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

As identified above, this feasibility study includes an analysis and documentation that determines feasibility based on the ten criteria established by the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. Chapter 5 of this feasibility study contains a detailed explanation of these criteria and discusses how the collection of sites in the feasibility study area relates to each criterion. This analysis factors into the determination of whether the study area warrants designation as a national heritage area. The 10 designation criteria are as follows:

1. The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities and by contributing diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.
2. The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.
3. The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.
4. The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.
5. Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.
6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.
7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.
9. The public supports a conceptual boundary map.
10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

This feasibility study complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which mandates all federal agencies to analyze the impacts of major federal actions that have a significant effect on the environment. The NPS guidance for addressing this act is set forth in Director’s Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*, which outlines several options for meeting the Act, depending on the severity of the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

A “categorical exclusion for which no formal documentation is necessary” was selected as the most appropriate NEPA pathway for this feasibility study. The feasibility study is excluded from requiring an environmental assessment because it matches one of the categories that under normal circumstances has no potential for impacts to the human environment. The categorical exclusion selected states:

“Legislative proposals of an administrative or technical nature (including such things as changes in authorizations for appropriations and minor boundary changes and land title transactions) or having primarily economic, social, individual, or institutional effects; and comments and reports on referrals of legislative proposals” (NPS 2015).

This feasibility study is consistent with this categorical exclusion because it was directed by Congress to determine if this area meets the feasibility requirement for designation as a national heritage area. In essence, this feasibility study is a report on a legislative proposal. If Congress decides to designate the feasibility study area as a national heritage area, then a comprehensive management plan would be developed for the area. Depending on the types of projects, programs, and other actions proposed in that management plan, an environmental assessment may be necessary at that time.

The categorical exclusion selected for this feasibility study requires no formal documentation; however, the study still contains several key NEPA components. Principally, the feasibility study relies heavily on public input and engagement of local stakeholders and subject matter experts to support its findings.

## **THE STUDY TEAM**

### **National Park Service**

An interdisciplinary team of NPS staff including community planners, cultural resource specialists, and natural resource specialists was assembled to conduct this feasibility study. NPS heritage area program representatives for the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) and the National Program Office also contributed to the feasibility study findings. Subject-matter experts and historians familiar with Virginia and the Northern Neck were also called on to review and provide comments on draft feasibility study findings.

## Local Stakeholder Group

A local stakeholder group, consisting of representatives of state and local agencies, historians, and the Northern Neck Planning District Committee actively participated in the feasibility study process. The stakeholder group is represented by members of the following agencies and organizations:

- Northern Neck Planning District Commission
- Northern Neck Tourism Commission
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Preservation Virginia
- Northern Neck Historical Society
- George Washington Birthplace National Monument (NPS)
- Stratford Hall
- Menokin
- Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library
- University of Mary Washington
- Saint Mary's College of Maryland
- Rappahannock Tribe
- A.T Johnson Museum
- Hull Springs Farm
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council
- King George Historical Society
- King George County Economic Development
- Northern Neck Heritage Tours
- Virginia Watermen Association
- Town of Kilmarnock (Lancaster/Northumberland Counties)
- Steamboat Wawaset Memorial (King George County)
- King George County
- Lancaster County
- Northumberland County
- Richmond County
- Westmoreland County

The local stakeholder group played an important part in the feasibility study effort by providing information on study area resources, potential heritage area themes, and a proposed national heritage area boundary. Members of the stakeholder group organized site visits, provided support for public outreach efforts, documented and inventoried resources, shared information on the history and importance of resources related to the Northern Neck study area, and participated in the NPS-organized feasibility study workshops. Through this collaborative effort, additional resource data and information on the study area were incorporated into this feasibility study.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Extensive public outreach was conducted before and during the study process. A series of public announcements and meetings served to increase public understanding of national heritage areas and encouraged citizens to participate in the National Park Service's study process. The Northern Neck Planning District Commission was instrumental in generating local support for the study and in facilitating logistics for meetings and communication. Open public engagement was fundamental to every step of this feasibility study process. Ultimately, the reason for such an integrated public involvement approach is a future national heritage area designation requires strong support and active participation from its local citizens. Without engaging the public throughout the study process, it would have been difficult to foresee a national heritage area on Virginia's Northern Neck.

To achieve this goal, a public involvement strategy was developed to:

- Promote public understanding of national heritage areas and how they are managed.
- Inform the public about the study and maximize their participation in the process.
- Assess public support for a national heritage area designation.
- Determine if there is local capacity and commitment to coordinate a future national heritage area.

Public involvement during the study process included the following:

- **Public information sessions.** Numerous meetings were held in each of the five counties throughout the study area during the course of the study process.
- **Workshops.** The study team led two workshops: the first to discuss the possible interpretive themes for the proposed heritage area and the second to discuss the resources and areas of history that make the proposed heritage area nationally distinct.
- **Site visits.** The study team visited numerous historic, cultural, natural, and recreational sites throughout the study area and adjacent lands to assess the presence of a strategic assemblage of natural and cultural resources that relates to a national story and associated themes.

A summary of the feasibility study's public outreach activities is included in table 1.

## **What We Learned from the Information Sessions**

The National Park Service hosted a series of public information sessions throughout the Northern Neck to gather public input during the study process. Public turnout was excellent during these meetings, and participants were highly engaged when talking about the heritage and resources of the Northern Neck.

Important outcomes from these meetings were the identification of heritage resources and development of potential nationally significant stories and themes of the Northern Neck study area. The resources include historic, cultural, natural, educational, and recreational sites, which are described throughout this study. The common message heard throughout the sessions was the desire to maintain the resources that make the Northern Neck distinct, including natural and cultural resources; the desire to share the rich heritage of the Northern Neck with a broader audience; and the desire for the numerous educational, recreational, natural, and cultural institutions and businesses to collaborate and further integrate budding networks. Public input is reflected in the following chapters of this study.

See appendix F for a summary of the May 2010 public meetings.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Per authorizing legislation, after the consultation requirement is complete, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to Congress that describes the findings of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

**Table 1. Summary of Public Outreach Activities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location/Venue</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
October 2009	Northern Neck Tourism Commission (Montross, VA)	NPS study team reconnaissance trip	Approximately 14 National Park Service and NNTC representatives
February 2010	George Washington's Birthplace National Monument (Colonial Beach, VA)	Stakeholder information session	Approximately 20 members of NNTC and interested parties
May 2010	<i>King George County:</i> Revercomb Administration Building  <i>Westmoreland County:</i> A.T. Johnson Alumni Museum Auditorium  <i>Richmond County:</i> Richmond County Courthouse  <i>Northumberland County:</i> Northumberland County Public Library  <i>Lancaster County:</i> Belle Isle State Park	Public information sessions – one information session held in each study area county during week of May 24-26, 2010	Approximately 50 attendees at each venue  (Approximately 250 total participants)
Spring 2010- Summer 2011	Throughout the Northern Neck and adjacent lands	Reconnaissance survey of resources	Met numerous property managers, landowners, and organizations
February 2011	Stratford Hall (Westmoreland County)	Interpretive Themes Workshop	Approximately 30 participants from local stakeholder group
August 2013	Stratford Hall (Westmoreland County)	Scholars' Roundtable	Approximately 20 participants from local stakeholder group including nationally recognized subject matter experts
October 2018	George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Colonial Beach, VA)	Scholars' Roundtable	Approximately 20 subject-matter experts associated with the study area



**CHAPTER 2.  
STUDY AREA HISTORY  
AND RESOURCES**



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## CHAPTER 2: STUDY AREA HISTORY AND RESOURCES

### INTRODUCTION

The following is a brief historical overview of Virginia's Northern Neck region. The purpose of this narrative is to provide a concise summary of the historical events associated with the Northern Neck as identified through research and public scoping conducted during the feasibility study process. The goal of this historical overview is two-fold: to highlight key historic events and individuals within the study area that may inform our understanding of the Northern Neck and to provide a foundation for identifying the most important resources within the study area that would support an interpretive framework and serve as the basis for a national heritage area.

To this end, this history is relatively brief. It is not intended to be a comprehensive, in-depth history of the Northern Neck region, and, undoubtedly, it does not include numerous events or aspects of local history that have occurred within the study area. This historic context has been reviewed and improved by subject-matter experts within and outside the study area.

### HISTORIC OVERVIEW

The history of Virginia's Northern Neck has been shaped by its geography and especially its location between two major rivers. The natural boundaries of the Northern Neck—the Potomac River on the north, the Rappahannock River on the south, and the Chesapeake Bay on the east—have had a profound impact on the region's economic, political, and social development. Prior to European settlement, the rivers provided sustenance and served as political boundaries between competing groups of American Indians. With the arrival of European settlers, these same rivers became highways for trade that encouraged the creation of tobacco-based plantations relying on chattel slavery. Within the larger framework of Tidewater Virginia, this economic success and geographic isolation from the rest of Virginia fostered the establishment of a political leadership that drove many of the debates leading to the American Revolution and played a major role in shaping the American republic. Three future presidents of the United States (George Washington, James Madison, and James Monroe), two signers of the Declaration of Independence (Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee), and one of the most significant figures of the American Civil War, (Robert E. Lee) were born on the Northern Neck.

The same geographic factors that enabled the 18th century's burst of wealth and political influence contributed to changes in the region's economic and political fortunes in the first half of the 19th century, as the proximity to major rivers exacerbated the impact of two wars. The collapse of the tobacco trade resulted in the dislocation of many prominent families. The post-Civil War years brought an economic resurgence, as access to water transportation and a burgeoning seafood industry again made the Northern Neck an agricultural center for the rapidly industrializing areas to the north and west. However, the advent of the automobile, the mid-20th-century decline in water transportation, and the development of the major transportation networks west of the fall line undercut the region's economic advantage. This series of changes created the Northern Neck of today, where the legacy of a distant past survives along with the diminished remains of its post-Civil War resurgence.

## American Indians Prior to European Settlement

American Indians have inhabited the Northern Neck for at least 10,000 years and hundreds of generations. During those millennia, sea levels changed drastically, the Chesapeake Bay came into existence, and the climate repeatedly underwent major shifts. American Indians adapted to those changes, surviving even the invasion of newcomers from beyond the Atlantic.

For at least 8,000 years, those adaptations were gradual, as small bands split up and converged throughout the year in an intricate round of fishing, gathering, and hunting that yielded a secure livelihood with a minimum of labor. They moved frequently, carrying lightweight tool kits suitable for a wide variety of purposes. The population grew slowly, but as it did, people increasingly spent a part of each year at a permanent base camp, and in the process, they likely developed more elaborate annual subsistence cycles, social organizations, and ceremonial lives.

Between 700 CE and 1600 CE, climate change and population growth fostered a transition from foraging to farming. During the “Medieval Warm Period” between the 9th and 13th centuries, higher average temperatures led to longer growing seasons, and, despite occasional droughts, American Indians on the Northern Neck increasingly committed themselves to growing maize, beans, squash, and other crops. Spending more time in a fixed village location made it easier to raise additional children, and the calorie-rich harvests fueled population growth. By the 14th century, most groups had come to depend on agriculture, though without giving up the previous fishing, gathering, and hunting activities. Sharing related languages and similar social organizations with Algonquian peoples throughout eastern and northern portions of the continent, people on the Northern Neck began establishing larger and more clearly defined communities.

Similar transitions were taking place throughout the Eastern Woodlands, including the largely Iroquoian peoples to the north of Chesapeake Bay. When the “Little Ice Age” set in during the 14th century, some of those northern groups found that shorter growing seasons made farming a risky business and began seeking places to live at lower elevations and more southern climes. This triggered a reshuffling of peoples, which shaped life as far south as the James River, setting off competition for prime village locations at the very moment when the number of acceptable places for villages was shrinking. In 900 CE, a group could establish a base camp at nearly any location that was convenient to fresh water and good fishing, gathering, and hunting sites. By the 14th century, however, increased dependence on cultivated plants meant that village sites also had to be convenient to level, well-drained, and fertile soils. The resulting competition was so fierce that a broad swath of the interior, from modern-day Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to the southern reaches of the Shenandoah Valley, was largely depopulated. The survivors consolidated into larger, often fortified, communities at or below the fall line.

Communities on the Northern Neck increasingly had to reckon with northern Iroquoian raiders. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Iroquois Great League of Peace emerged out of an extended period of warfare. Formation of the Iroquois League brought peace within the Five Nations, but the forces impelling Iroquoian peoples to war continued unabated. Five Nations warriors simply turned their attention to groups who were not part of the League, placing “outer nations” under greater pressure than before.

Some Five Nations warriors and “outer nations,” such as the Susquehannocks and the Massawomecks, also raided to the south. These northern raiders transformed still more of the interior from gardens into wilderness and inspired surviving villages on the Northern Neck to alter

their political and social orders to better defend themselves from these formidable Iroquoian nations. The villagers' solution was to adopt a hierarchical political order with hereditary paramount chiefs, to whom residents of subordinate villages and hamlets were required to pay tribute. Chiefs, known as weroances or weroansqua, coordinated matters of war, peace, exchange, and diplomacy.

In the late 16th century, pressure on Northern Neck indigenous groups also came from the south, in the form of an expanding paramount chiefdom based on the York and James Rivers and headed by the man commonly known today as Powhatan. He built steadily on his inheritance of a half-dozen dependent chiefdoms, and by 1608, his territory—Tsenacommacah—encompassed at least thirty different peoples. The south bank of the Potomac formed the northern frontier of Tsenacommacah. On the north side of the Potomac, the Piscataway, or "Conoy," chiefdom, ruled by a paramount chief known as the Tayac and centered at the main Piscataway village, encompassed a minimum of five different nations and sometimes more. Thus, by the end of the 16th century, the Powhatan and Piscataway chiefdoms incorporated, or heavily influenced, all of the peoples on the Northern Neck.

## **The Beginning of European Colonization**

When the first English colonists arrived in Virginia in 1607, the Northern Neck was on the fringes of the area controlled by Powhatan's Tsenacommacah. North of the Potomac, the Iroquoian-speaking Susquehannocks were traditional enemies of Powhatan, and the Piscataways and Patuxents were clearly beyond its control. The Patawomecks and other Algonquin-speaking groups on the south bank of the Potomac were at best loosely tied to Powhatan, and contemporary scholars are divided in their assessments of the allegiances of some tribes in the Rappahannock basin.

These circumstances shaped early English involvement with the peninsula. By 1608, John Smith, a leader of the London-based Virginia Company, had traveled up the Potomac as far as the falls and had explored much of the tidal Rappahannock. The natives he encountered gave him a mixed reception—hostile in some instances but also open to the possibility that Smith's fellow colonists at Jamestown might provide a counterweight to Powhatan, thus helping them to become more independent of the paramount chief. Early 17th-century colonists tended to agree with this approach. Few in number and reckoning that trade and alliances against their common Powhatan enemy would best serve their interests, the newcomers initially refrained from any attempt at dispossessing the populous chiefdoms of the Northern Neck.

In April 1610, Henry Spelman, a young English interpreter who had been placed with Powhatan by the English, found himself mistrusted by both the authorities in Jamestown and his Indian hosts and fled to live with the Patawomecks on the Northern Neck. Six months later, he served as an interpreter for Captain Samuel Argall when he sailed up the Potomac. Because of Spelman's influence, the Patawomecks allied with the colonists in the Anglo-Powhatan War, which lasted from 1609 to 1614 and helped secure alliances with groups on the Eastern Shore. A decade later, Spelman again helped to secure the assistance of the Patawomecks in the Second Anglo-Powhatan War of 1622-1632. The English-Patawomeck alliance survived the war, but Spelman did not; in March 1623, he and nineteen other colonists on a Potomac River trading expedition were attacked and killed.

English settlement on the peninsula began in 1640 with John Mottrom's establishment of a residence north of present-day Heathsville. Although many of the early settlers arrived from Maryland, the Virginia government began taxing them by 1646 and created Northumberland County in 1648. As settlement continued, additional counties were created: Lancaster in 1651, Westmoreland in 1653, Rappahannock in 1656, and Stafford in 1664. In 1692, the portion of Rappahannock County lying

within the Northern Neck was formed into Richmond County, and in 1721, the northern portion of Richmond was separated to create King George County. As the English population grew, American Indians were pushed off their land. As early as 1656, Westmoreland County reserved a specific tract of land for use by the Matchotics, and by 1700, the newcomers had almost completely taken over the Northern Neck. Many of the indigenous people had died or had taken refuge in multiethnic communities further inland. Though legally disadvantaged and politically powerless, many Indians stayed on the Northern Neck, held together by dense webs of kinship and a common culture. Today, two of the tribes historically associated with the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers are recognized by government entities: the Rappahannock is a federally recognized tribe and the Patowomeck Nation, based out of Stafford County, is recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### **The Rise of Tobacco Culture, the Gentry and Slavery**

The process of land acquisition by English settlers was influenced by the royal grant of the Northern Neck Proprietary. Originally given to seven supporters by Charles II as he fled England during the English Civil War in 1649, the grant would have little effect until the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II in 1660. Under this grant, the proprietors gained control of all land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. Despite uncertainty over just how far inland the grant extended, it clearly included the entire Tidewater portion of the peninsula. Although initially construed as conveying far greater privileges, the grant's chief benefits for the proprietors were the right to manage the granting of land previously unclaimed by European settlers and the right to collect from local landowners the quitrents, a traditional form of English taxation that would otherwise have gone to the crown. Some earlier historians suggested that the Proprietary encouraged greater concentration of landownership on the Northern Neck than elsewhere in Virginia, but most modern scholars disagree. It did, however, facilitate the acquisition of enormous amounts of land by Robert "King" Carter, Thomas Lee, and a few other individuals who acted as agents for the proprietors.

As elsewhere in the Chesapeake, tobacco was the economic engine of the Northern Neck for most of the colonial period. A labor-intensive crop, it encouraged the exploitation of workers and the concentration of wealth. English indentured servants constituted the bulk of the labor force until the late 17th century. Overwork and the prevalence of disease lessened their chances for survival, and those who completed their period of servitude often had difficulty acquiring land on which they could profitably raise tobacco, especially as the population grew and leading planters sought to acquire the most valuable riverfront land. Thus, in Lancaster County, less than ten percent of the indentured servants who became free, or were due to become free between 1662 and 1679, had become landowners by 1679. This contributed to the spread of tenancy on the peninsula. In the mid-to-late 18th century, the tendency of larger planters to rent out land on which tobacco had become increasingly unprofitable furthered this trend; and, by then, a significant number of free residents depended upon wage labor for much of their livelihood. In 1732, the resentments of smaller planters, who assumed that a new tobacco inspection system would work against them, led to riots and arson at public warehouses and elsewhere in Lancaster, Northumberland, Prince William, and King George counties. This tobacco inspection system was created to assure the consistent quality of the crop by making sure each hogshead was free of trash and dirt. By 1803, Dr. Henry Ashton's medical report described most inhabitants of the interior sections of King George and Westmoreland counties as living on land so infertile that they had to subsist most of the summer and fall on fish they caught in local waterways.

These tensions between large and small planters lay at the center of Bacon's Rebellion, which began in January 1676 as a conflict between colonists and a band of Susquehannocks in what is now Stafford County. This incident quickly escalated into attacks by other Indian groups. The governor of the colony, William Berkeley, rebuffed requests from frontier settlers to launch a general war against Indians. A significant number of Virginians, many of whom were former servants or small planters, ignored Berkeley's instructions and initiated attacks against Indian tribes. The leader of the revolt, Nathaniel Bacon, was a relative newcomer to Virginia and a cousin of Berkeley. Although a member of the Governor's Council, he had grand ambitions of leadership as he rallied disaffected small planters and servants in open rebellion against the colony's established leadership and turned the disorders into a true civil war. Bacon and his comrades resented the political and economic advantages enjoyed by the planter elite and saw their rebellion as a way to increase economic opportunity.

Evidence of the impact of the rebellion can be found on the Northern Neck. Of particular importance is the Cliffs Plantation site excavated at Stratford Hall in 1976. This mid-17th century plantation revealed extensive evidence about living conditions for English settlers, in particular the existence of a palisade, apparently constructed at the time of Bacon's Rebellion and intended to protect the settlers from Indian attacks.

The rebellion ended with the suppression of the rebels after Bacon's death. Subsequent investigations by British authorities led to the removal of Berkeley and a slight expansion of opportunities for smaller planters. However, tension between the planter elite and their less affluent neighbors remained a pivotal issue in colonial Virginia and in the Northern Neck.

The use of enslaved labor in Virginia began early in the 17th century. By the latter part of that century, Northern Neck planters, like their peers elsewhere in the Chesapeake, had moved significantly toward a reliance on enslaved workers of African descent rather than indentured servants of predominantly English descent. Because purchasing enslaved Africans required more capital than did purchasing indentured servants, this presumably favored large over small tobacco planters. The reproduction of slaves further enriched their owners. Stafford County planter William Fitzhugh, for example, asserted in 1686 that because his workforce was mostly American-born, young, and fertile enslaved people; this would preserve his work force indefinitely. Over the next 17 years, the number of enslaved individuals he owned grew from 29 to 51, apparently entirely through natural increase.

Enslaved workers found ways to resist their status. In 1680, and again in 1687, insurrection conspiracies were uncovered on the Northern Neck. These enslaved people had also begun to achieve a significant measure of social and cultural autonomy. The 1680 plot was blamed in part on "the great freedom and Liberty that has been by many Masters given to their Negro Slaves for Walking on broad on Saterdays and Sundays and permitting them to meete in great Numbers in makeing and holding of Funeralls for Dead Negroes." Over time, the Northern Neck's enslaved population became more heavily American-born and absorbed more of Anglo-Virginia culture. Many individuals held in slavery gained non-agricultural skills, greater knowledge of the geographic and social worlds beyond their plantations, and greater freedom from their owners in their daily lives. This was especially true for those who were hired out to other whites for extended periods, but others shared in these experiences. These changes worked to diversify, rather than dampen conflict. Throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, enslaved African Americans resisted their owners'

control through overt physical violence, flight, sometimes subtle forms of sabotage, negotiation, and a myriad of other methods.

By the mid-18th century, land, the enslaved population, and political power in the Virginia Colony were concentrated in the hands of a very small elite class, often referred to as the gentry. These men used their wealth and their control of appointments to most positions in local government to preserve their power and to encourage the acceptance of what some scholars have called a culture of deference. This culture suggested that ordinary citizens should defer to the leadership of their "betters," who would make the important political decisions that best served the interests of the whole society. In the proceedings of courts and vestries and in the physical layout of churches, courthouses, and elaborate mansions like Stratford Hall, these leading men attempted to articulate and support these values. Prevalent throughout colonial Virginia, this notion of deference was especially evident on the Northern Neck, where landownership and political power were somewhat more concentrated than elsewhere in the colony.

Yet, the gentry were often met with hostility rather than deference from their humbler white neighbors. Private quarrels with small freeholders over such matters as land rights, timber usage, and wandering livestock regularly engaged their attention. Other difficulties arose with plantation overseers and tenants, as well as with a large population of skilled and unskilled wage laborers. All of these groups were further alienated from the elite by difficulties over debts and credit, as well as by the stark contrast between their lives and the material abundance and security enjoyed by their "betters." The nature of Northern Neck slavery exacerbated poor white bitterness, in part because poor whites and enslaved African Americans often experienced similar conditions of material life and developed similar patterns of both dependence and resentment toward the gentry. More importantly, the experience of white laborers who worked side by side with blacks, the burdens of slave patrolling, and the threat of violence by enslaved African Americans against all whites frequently increased poor white resentment, not only toward enslaved blacks, but also toward the wealthier whites who owned them.

Two other patterns of change were transforming the Northern Neck in the generation before the American Revolution. First, Scottish merchants, whose agents or "factors" began to open stores on the peninsula in the 1730s, increasingly displaced London merchants as the marketers of tobacco. By purchasing tobacco directly from producers rather than selling it on consignment in Britain, and by offering a wide array of consumer goods on credit, they pulled many non-elite members of Northern Neck society more fully into the Atlantic market economy. The Northern Neck gentry disliked the merchants because they sensed a threat to their political and social authority and feared financial difficulties arising from the Scots' expansion of consumer credit. The humbler Anglo-Virginians, who more heavily patronized the Scottish stores, resented the merchants' efforts to fix tobacco prices, as well as their high prices for consumer goods and the growing indebtedness they fostered. Ethnic prejudices against Scots further strengthened these antipathies among all classes, as did the merchants' visibility as a symbol of the market economy, which large and small planters professed to dislike.

Second, as tobacco yields declined, many planters shifted more of their lands into grain production. The demand for wheat on the sugar-growing islands of the Caribbean encouraged them to do so, and the Northern Neck was unable to grow the more valuable sweet-scented variety of tobacco. This shift increased the diversion of enslaved workers into nonagricultural labor. Furthermore, insofar as



the shared patterns and problems of tobacco cultivation had helped to create bonds among rich and poor white farmers, grain production worked to reduce this source of social cohesion.

In provincial politics, Northern Neck leaders tended to oppose the Robinson-Randolph faction that controlled the Virginia Assembly. This faction was dominated by James River planters and led by John Robinson, who simultaneously held the offices of Speaker of the House of Burgesses and treasurer. Distance from the capital at Jamestown, and later at Williamsburg and Richmond, probably contributed to the antagonism the Northern Neck planters felt. Competition for trans-Appalachian land grants between the Ohio Company, in which Northern Neck leaders were prominent, and groups of investors with closer ties to Robinson and Randolph was also a factor. Moreover, it was simply the result of years of personal animosity between leading Virginia families. During the 1760s, Richard Henry Lee played a leading role in efforts to weaken the power of the Robinson-Randolph faction by separating the offices of speaker and treasurer.

### **The Northern Neck Gentry and the American Revolution**

The American Revolution brought severe challenges for Northern Neck leaders. Because its residents included such committed activists as Richard Henry Lee and Landon Carter, the Northern Neck played a leading role in resistance to British regulation throughout the decade before the American Revolution. By all accounts, the news of Parliament's imposition of a stamp tax on the colonies in 1765 provoked uproar among Northern Neck planters. Courts in at least three counties pledged not to enforce the Stamp Act, and effigies of George Grenville, the British architect of the Stamp Act, and George Mercer, the agent appointed to distribute the stamps in Virginia, were publicly tried and hung before a large crowd outside the Westmoreland Courthouse in September 1765. On February 27, 1766, 115 planters from Westmoreland and the surrounding counties gathered in the thriving port of Leedstown to sign the Leedstown Resolves (also called the Westmoreland Resolves or "Scheme of Association"), a formal protest against the Stamp Act and pledge of mutual aid if the Act was enforced. Penned by Richard Henry Lee, the resolution condemned "taxation without representation" and is considered a pivotal act leading up to the American Revolution. Patriot sentiment was visible, if less clearly dominant, on the Neck in the years after the Stamp Act's repeal, as was the case in most of Virginia. A portrait of William Pitt, Prime Minister at the time of repeal, was purchased by a group of local planters, including Richard Henry Lee, in admiration for his support of the colonial cause and hangs today in the Westmoreland County Museum. In 1774 and 1775, the Boston Tea Party and the Coercive Acts that closed Boston's harbor and altered the structure of Massachusetts's government led to a resurgence of support for resistance to imperial authority.

Although the gentry dominated the region's patriot movement, there was some ambivalence even among them. Indifference and opposition may have been still stronger among the lower classes, and it grew more open during the war years. In May 1776, Landon Carter recorded in his journal a report he had heard of a small Richmond County planter who refused to supply a musket to help defend the riverside houses of the gentry against enemy raiders. The man had said that he thought it would be better to let the mansions be destroyed. Recruiting grew more difficult as the war continued. Nineteen Westmoreland County men refused to perform militia duty in late 1777, and the next June a larger group was charged with opposing any attempt to march them out of the state on military duty. Opposition to military service reached its climax with the draft riots of 1780 in Lancaster and Northumberland Counties, where mobs completely blocked efforts to implement the draft. In Northumberland, a Continental Army officer was killed, and it took several days to suppress the

rioters. The next February a county official reported that many draft dodgers were still at large, and some had fled to the British forces. Virginia notoriously fell short of its recruitment goals for the Continental service, a source of continued embarrassment to General Washington.

The rapid growth of evangelical dissent in the 1770s and 1780s also alarmed the gentry. Presbyterians had challenged Anglican hegemony in Lancaster County by the late 1750s, and Baptists had appeared in Stafford by the mid-1760s. In the 1770s, the Baptists expanded their activities into the lower Northern Neck counties, and the Methodists had become a substantial presence by the mid-1770s. The gentry were alarmed, not only because the dissenters challenged the state-supported Anglican Church, but also because they criticized the deferential and materialistic values that underlay their own authority. Probably more alarming still were the number and the diversity of humble white and black Northern Neck residents who supported dissenting groups and the autonomous, democratically-minded communities they seemed to be creating. Consequently, the dissenters met with ridicule, harassment, and sometimes physical violence from supporters of the establishment. In 1785, evangelical groups on the Northern Neck played a leading role in mobilizing opposition to the "general assessment" proposal to provide tax support for all Christian denominations, a measure that they denounced as contrary to religious freedom and to the spirit of true Christianity even though they would have received some of the revenues.

In the end, neither the crisis of the American Revolution nor the challenge of evangelical religion fundamentally transformed the region's social structure. This was because established leaders responded to the challenges of Revolutionary politics and war with an array of skillful compromises and because neither wartime dissidents nor evangelicals fully broke with the hierarchical values that sanctioned the gentry's leadership. Surviving examples of 18th-century architecture throughout the region, including the grand homes of the gentry as well as the homes of their less affluent neighbors, testify to the widespread wealth and refined taste of the region's planter class. Indeed, the wartime resisters, and especially the evangelicals, embraced much of the spirit of commerce and cosmopolitan connections that their movements appeared to attack. Some of the local gentry, most notably Robert Carter of Nomini Hall, openly supported the evangelicals. Carter, however, was an anomaly whose ideas about religion departed radically from his neighbors. As the 19th century began, the gentry, though still challenged, remained in control on the Northern Neck.

### **Economic, Political, and Social Decline**

By 1800, the glory days of the Northern Neck had departed. Much of its wealth and many of its adventurous younger sons and daughters had moved west, leaving behind remnants of the leading families. Federal population schedules for the five counties of the Northern Neck reveal a period of stagnation. The overall population declined about 10% between 1810 and 1860, but the enslaved population declined 13%. This reflects both the departure of many of the larger planters that depended on the labor of enslaved workers, the sale of enslaved people to cotton plantations to the south, and the decline of tobacco cultivation in favor of less labor-intensive wheat and corn.

The decline in the enslaved population also reflects the manumission of a large number of enslaved African Americans owned by Robert Carter of Nomini Hall, the grandson of Robert "King" Carter, whose management of the Northern Neck Proprietorship enabled him to amass one of Virginia's largest estates in terms of land and enslaved workers. It also reflects the effort of a number of Northern Neck planters who felt a genuine dislike of slavery, dislike of blacks, missionary zeal, and other often-conflicting reasons, to support the American Colonization Society. The Society,

established in 1816, encouraged emigration of free blacks to Liberia, a colony it had founded on the west coast of Africa. Later emigrants included emancipated African Americans, though they rarely had a choice in the matter. Of the 12,000 or so free blacks and formerly enslaved people who made the journey to Liberia, nearly one-third came from Virginia.

While the decline in ownership of enslaved people reflected the region's diminishing economic fortunes, the War of 1812 had a more profound impact. Though the United States had declared war on Britain in 1812, the British did not turn their full attention in this direction until after the defeat of Napoleon in 1814. In a fiery, pre-war speech on the House floor in December 1811, John Randolph of Virginia prophesized that American emphasis on seizing Canada would leave the Chesapeake Bay defenseless. Randolph's prophesy was based on more than mere speculation, as during the Revolution there had been attacks on plantations and other property along the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers; however, they were not on the scale of the destruction inflicted in 1814.

Though there had been several enemy incursions into the Northern Neck in 1812, British action began in earnest in the spring of 1814 and did not abate until the winter of that year. The brunt of the action fell upon Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties along the Potomac. There seemed to be little purpose to these incursions other than plunder, destruction, and encouraging enslaved African Americans to escape and join the British forces. About 700 freedom seekers escaped, with most of them transported by the British to Trinidad. The most significant of these British military expeditions involved more than 1,000 troops and resulted in destruction of private and public property, including churches, homes and barns, and extensive theft of livestock.

These expeditions were met with indifferent resistance by local militia. The most significant evidence of resistance can be found today at Farnham Church in Richmond County, which shows the scars of the action that occurred there in December 1814. It is difficult to calculate the economic impact of these raids, but the destruction of property, loss of valuable crops and the enslaved workforce, as well as disruption to shipping, surely did significant damage to a region still recovering from the American Revolution.

In the midst of war and economic decline, another threat to the region's political power arose. Under the Virginia Constitution of 1788, the only eligible voters were free white males over the age of 21 who were also freeholders. These requirements disenfranchised not only free blacks, but about 50% of the white male population who were not freeholders. In addition to these grievances, the method of apportionment was based on acreage and not population. As migration continued west, citizens in the new counties beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, particularly in present West Virginia, demanded changes in the franchise. These complaints were vehemently opposed by the large landholders, like those in the Northern Neck, who sought to retain the political power the existing system afforded them.

The apportionment issues were addressed in a series of constitutional conventions, the first in 1829. While it included some of the most eminent thinkers of the time and produced some excellent oratory, little was actually accomplished other than to expand the electorate by including leaseholders and some changes to apportionment. These changes permitted any person owning land in any county to vote in that county, a clear benefit to the large landholders who frequently owned land in more than one county. The changes to Virginia's Constitution were submitted to a state-wide referendum. Since they had little impact on local political power, they passed with overwhelming support in all but one Northern Neck county.

This temporary compromise did not satisfy the growing concerns about suffrage or apportionment expressed by Virginians, so another convention was called in 1850. This time it granted the franchise to all white males over age 21 who resided in the state, without regard to landownership or lease. It also created compact legislative districts based on population rather than acreage or county lines.

These important constitutional changes were the first major threats to the dominance of the large planters since the 18th century and significantly diminished the political influence of the Northern Neck and other counties in eastern Virginia.

Another part of the gentry-dominated social fabric, the church, was also under assault in the early 19th century. Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists had been growing in number since pre-Revolutionary times, all at the expense of the once-dominant Anglican Church. After the Revolution, the Anglican Church was disestablished, and its responsibility for providing poor relief was transferred to county "Overseers of the Poor." In 1801, the legislature authorized each county's "Overseers of the Poor" to sell former Anglican properties and to convert the proceeds for their own use. The one exception to this in the Northern Neck was Christ Church in Lancaster County, built in 1735 by Robert "King" Carter. Since Carter had paid for the church's construction and furnishings out of his personal fortune, it was deemed private property.

The resulting dispersal of the physical church did not mean its parishioners had departed with it. In 1812, the exalted Bishop James Madison died, leaving a leadership vacuum that was soon filled by an energetic group of young deacons led by some of the most prominent names in Virginia, including Bushrod Washington and Edmund Lee. This began the reinvigoration of the Episcopal Church in Virginia and the Northern Neck. It was a difficult struggle, but part of the Episcopal Church's new-found identity and appeal was its missionary zeal. This, combined with its ability to recruit able, young leaders and raise the funds necessary for its activities, became the fertile soil from which the "phoenix arose." From these ashes arose the Missionary Society (later the Foreign Mission and Domestic Mission Societies), the Virginia Theological Society, a Widows and Orphans Fund, an Education Society, a Seminary Society, Sunday Schools for enslaved African Americans, and, as previously stated, an active role in the American Colonization Society.

Another new development—steam power—would have significant consequences for the Northern Neck later in the 19th century. By 1813, the steamboat Chesapeake made its first excursion out of Baltimore. This launched a 130-year transportation system that became the economic lifeline of the Northern Neck when the Weems line was established in 1827, offering service from Baltimore to Fredericksburg.

By the dawn of the Civil War, few large plantations remained in the Northern Neck, and tobacco had long since stopped being a leading cash crop. The vast majority of the population consisted of small farmers or tenant farmers, and the principal cash crops were lumber, cordwood, corn, and wheat. Steamboat transportation enabled fresh crops such as tomatoes, peas, and seafood products including crabs and oysters to be shipped to Baltimore. By the mid-1850s, 85% of the world's oysters came from the Chesapeake Bay.

## **The Civil War on the Northern Neck**

Just as the arrival of the steamboat, political changes, and re-emergence of the Episcopal Church began to bring social stability and economic growth, the Civil War brought uncertainty, heartache, and destruction to the region. It provided yet another example of how the proximity to navigable

water, which had positively impacted the region since the colonial period, could also be a liability. Although no major battle was fought on the Northern Neck, the legacy of that conflict is intertwined with the region's history. Monuments bearing the names of men who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Confederacy grace manicured lawns in front of courthouses. More than just names, these men represent a lost generation. The Northern Neck, like the rest of Virginia, bore witness to the devastation of the Civil War, but on this most northern peninsula, the war is evident on a more personal level.

The Northern Neck enables us to understand how Virginia society was affected by the war both economically and socially, as revealed at places like Stratford Hall, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, and at courthouses in towns such as Montross and King George. One of the premier units of Confederate cavalry—the 9th Virginia—was comprised of men from the Northern Neck. Union Cavalry commander H. Judson Kilpatrick remarked that, when he knew the 9th Virginia Cavalry was lined up in front of his forces, he would always assign three regiments to fight it, as “they were the best cavalry regiment in Confederate service.” Kilpatrick's accolade testified to the commitment of the men of this region to the Confederate cause.

By 1862, the area comprising the Northern Neck lay behind enemy lines, as the United States Navy seized control of the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. The town of Fredericksburg, situated at the western end of the Northern Neck, was occupied by federal forces in the early summer of 1862. During this time, the presence of Union soldiers became a routine occurrence throughout the Northern Neck. In early 1863, a letter written by a resident of Westmoreland County reported, “There had been rumours of Yankees for some days, and this morning they came in good earnest. They took our carriage horses, and two others . . . as many of our sugar-cured hams as they wanted . . .” Approximately a month later, the same writer remarked, “I saw many of the neighbors yesterday, and compared losses. We are all pretty severely pillaged . . . The infantry regiment took their departure . . . the vessel was loaded with plunder and many negroes.” Even the birthplace of America's first great icon, George Washington, was not immune to the horrors of war. In the late winter and early spring of 1863, the Union Army of the Potomac sent a regiment of cavalry, and then a detachment from the famed Iron Brigade, to requisition forage and supplies. Union raiders met a contingent of the 9th Virginia Cavalry around Washington's birthplace, and although casualties were limited, the Union commander, Colonel A.G. Draper, reported five dead rebel soldiers. Southern Maryland was recognized as the unofficial backdoor to the Confederacy, as messages, contraband, and Southern sympathizers moved back and forth across the Potomac. The numerous federal raids throughout the war were designed to cut off this activity.

In the closing months of 1864, reports of atrocities committed by Union troops on the Northern Neck traveled to Richmond where the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was being besieged by the Union Army of the Potomac, and the realization that these troops were African Americans heightened Southern animosity. Robert E. Lee remarked, “I fear there is much truth in the account which reached the Department of the ravages and outrages committed by the enemy in the Northern Neck.” Confederate Secretary of War James Seddon used words such as “infamy” and “ravages” to describe the depredations.

The massive impact of the Civil War on residents of the Northern Neck is brought out vividly by Evelyn Ward, who lived through the war at her family home, Bladensfield, in Richmond County. She lost two brothers during the war: William was killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill in June 1862, and another brother was killed at Beverly's Ford in June 1863. Besides coping with this loss, she

witnessed raiding parties of federals that frequently came to take off any “crop of food or forage to be had.” This raiding led to an unusual occurrence, when in winter of 1864-65 two soldiers from Colonel John S. Mosby’s guerrilla outfit spent several days at Bladensfield. Their assignment was to help stop the depredations against Confederate citizens in the Northern Neck.

Evelyn saw her world again turned upside down during the latter stages of the conflict, when her young brother Henry was almost conscripted. She summed up her turmoil over the possibility in the following words: “In case Harry has to come! The thought cut like a knife into our hearts. He was barely fifteen.” As the war wound down, Evelyn wrote with a sense of foreboding, “something strange happened almost every day.” First, the Wards lost their servants (enslaved people), and then a large contingent of “the Northern army had moved down to Warsaw and had taken possession of us.” In the end, the family faced the cold fact that the South had lost, two sons were gone, and they stood “facing new and difficult conditions.” The Ward family approached a drastically changed world with “one silver quarter and a heap of Confederate money, now not worth a dime.”

### **The Post War Economic Transformation of the Northern Neck**

The years after the Civil War were difficult ones throughout the South, as the abolition of slavery, financial ruin, and reconstruction produced economic and social disruption. The Northern Neck was no exception. It remained a largely rural area, but in the half-century after fighting ended, its character was transformed, creating markedly different landscapes. Among the most important changes was the growing connection to Baltimore, facilitated by the postwar expansion of regular steamboat service. This not only opened up new markets but shifted the economic focus away from Virginia to Baltimore and other cities to the north. These far-reaching changes helped create the Northern Neck that we see today.

Well before the war, tobacco production had declined markedly, and the area’s traditional staple crop had been replaced by wheat. Production of wheat almost doubled between 1850 and 1860, with Westmoreland and King George counties leading the way, and riverfront granaries and mills became familiar features of the landscape. Most Northern Neck wheat was transported by steamboat to Baltimore, which had become a major center of flour milling and grain shipping. By the early 1900s, grain production had increased to the point where a venerable gristmill near Montross in Westmoreland County was refitted to process wheat into flour.

Wheat was not the only important farm commodity in these years. Many families, both black and white, living on smallholdings away from the major rivers, turned their attention to the production of fruits and vegetables. Tomatoes did exceptionally well in the area’s well-drained, sandy loam soils. By the late 1920s, this fruit had become the Northern Neck’s principal cash crop, with a value in Westmoreland County alone reaching nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Thousands of baskets full of early tomatoes were shipped fresh to nearby cities, particularly Baltimore, while others full of ripened tomatoes were hauled to the area’s numerous canneries. Some canneries, including one at Kremlin, in Westmoreland County, were located in the interior and were operated by black families, but most were at wharves on the area’s navigable waterways and belonged to white businessmen. At least four canneries stood on the waterfront at Kinsale, where the demand for labor was so great that seasonal workers were brought in from Baltimore. Several entrepreneurs had large plants where fish processing and tomato canning were done under the same roof, with perhaps the most prominent of these located at Weems on the lower Rappahannock in Lancaster County.

Fishing and the harvesting of shellfish had been a part of Northern Neck life since the 17th century, but it was not until after the Civil War that these occupations became prominent supports of the area's economy. As residents began to recover from the chaos that the conflict had produced, many people found that they could better provide for their families by turning to the area's marine resources rather than the land, particularly because this required only a small outlay of capital and could be done alone or in the company of a few individuals who pooled their labor. Most of the area's seafood, like its wheat and tomatoes, was taken by boat to Baltimore. In the early part of the 20th century, Northern Neck watermen caught a wide variety of fish, including trout and herring. For the majority, however, the harvesting of crabs and oysters brought the best returns. Seafood packinghouses sprang up along the Potomac and Rappahannock and at wharves on the area's countless tidal inlets.

Soon after the Civil War ended, another marine-based industry came to the Northern Neck in the form of catching and processing menhaden, an oily, bony fish not prized for eating but an important source of oil, meal, and fertilizer. The industry began in 1866, when New Englanders discovered schools of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay so huge that they could be scooped from the water with ease. Word of this bounty spread quickly, and a year later Elijah W. Reed, a Maine ship captain, arrived with two vessels loaded with processing equipment. Within a matter of months, Reed established a small plant on Cockrell's Creek in Northumberland County where the fish were boiled in huge kettles. In 1874, he built a larger plant a short distance away at the site of the present town of Reedville and soon installed a more sophisticated rendering process based on pressurized steam cooking. His success encouraged further investment, and, by the early 1880s, New England and New York interests had two plants in operation near the mouth of the Rappahannock in Lancaster County. When they were able, local men entered the business, often with northern entrepreneurs as partners. By the second decade of the 20th century, it was said that there were fifteen large menhaden plants and numerous smaller ones in the lower Northern Neck, supplied by a fleet of sixty steamships and a number of smaller vessels. Jobs on the ships and in the factories multiplied, bringing unprecedented prosperity to this part of the Neck.

Work on a menhaden boat was strenuous. Until the introduction of hydraulic power blocks in the 1950s, nets teeming with fish were hauled onto the boats by hand, which was a backbreaking task that might require an hour or more of constant pulling if the catch was large. To help withstand the exhausting nature of their toil and to develop a steady rhythm as they pulled together, the crews, consisting largely of black men laboring under white captains and mates, sang traditional chanteys that resembled the work songs of enslaved Africans on the South's plantations. This legacy has been carried forward by the Northern Neck Chantey Singers, a group of elderly, retired watermen who pulled menhaden nets by hand in the years before the process was mechanized.

As the Northern Neck's economic structure changed, so, too, did the role played by its towns. The transformation of Kinsale illustrates the close relationship that existed between small ports and the landlocked interior. Kinsale was created by decree in 1706 as Westmoreland County's official port town, but little came of this because most plantations had riverfront locations that allowed them to load tobacco and receive manufactured goods at their own piers. This changed in the years preceding the Revolution, for by then settlement had pushed well inland, and the area's smallholders needed access to water transportation. The town was nearly destroyed by the British during the War of 1812 but revived as a wheat shipping point when farmers in the interior turned from tobacco to grain production. Still, on the eve of the Civil War, Kinsale was a small place, with no more than a half-dozen houses overlooking its wharves.

This changed dramatically as the Northern Neck recovered from the war. Steamboats called with increasing frequency to take on loads of wheat and canned tomatoes, to deliver goods destined for a large part of the Neck, and to pick up passengers traveling to Baltimore, Alexandria, and other points. By 1870, Kinsale had two hotels to accommodate steamboat passengers and merchants arranging for the shipment of their products. The town's growth continued in the following decades, its fortunes always connected to the production of commodities and the demand for farmers' supplies and household items throughout its hinterland. In 1915, the busy community boasted a steamboat wharf, three tomato canneries, four stores, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, a bank, and a Methodist church. There were 33 dwellings occupied by permanent residents and a number of structures that housed seasonal cannery workers. On the edge of town stood Kinsale's high school, established 6 years earlier, which had become the first accredited secondary school in the Northern Neck. Evidence of the steamboat-driven boom that created Kinsale can be seen elsewhere on the Northern Neck at places such as Morratico and Lewisetta.

Other towns had more recent origins. One such was Reedville, founded in 1874 near Elijah W. Reed's second menhaden plant. Reed himself built the first house, but others soon followed, and by the 1890s, Reedville's population had passed the one hundred mark. Most of the town's first structures were modest dwellings resembling those of a New England fishing village. This changed as Reedville became more prosperous and its ship captains and merchants replaced their original houses with grand Victorian mansions, giving the town's main street the nickname of "Millionaire's Row." In 1912, about the same time that Kinsale was in its prime, Reedville was said to have the highest per capita wealth in the United States. It had eight menhaden plants, a bank, a large department store, two hotels, and a magnificent Methodist church, dedicated in 1901. Reedville's prosperity did not last, as a disastrous fire in 1925, the Great Depression, and the deaths of several businessmen took their toll, but for a short time, it stood out among Northern Neck towns as an extraordinary place whose special character can still be felt.

Another product of the post-Civil War era was Colonial Beach. Until the 1870s, the site was used primarily by fishermen, but the combination of a sandy beach along the tidal Potomac, a protected anchorage for pleasure craft, and easy access by steamboat from Washington caught the attention of investors who purchased land and built hotels and summer cottages. A boardwalk and amusement park near the steamboat landing provided additional attractions. By the time the town was incorporated in 1892, Colonial Beach was well known as the "Playground of the Potomac," and in the years that followed, throngs of summer visitors, some on Sunday excursions and others arriving for longer stays, filled the town. After the use of steamboats declined, bus service continued to connect Washington with Colonial Beach, and in the 1930s car ferries, making fourteen round trips daily, delivered visitors from the Maryland side. The town continues to be a modest recreation destination, with visitors looking to trade the fast pace and sweltering summer heat of Washington, D.C. for shore breezes and a laid-back, resort town atmosphere.

The area's transformation carried over to other dimensions of life, notably education. During the 19th century, newly emancipated, free African Americans pooled their resources to build churches throughout the Northern Neck that provided religious guidance as well as education for members of their congregations. In 1870, the Virginian General Assembly passed a law providing free schooling for all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one, with schools to be segregated by race. Almost overnight, dozens of one-room elementary schools—the first free public schools in the state—came into existence, each serving small neighborhoods of black or white families. High schools did not appear until the 20th century. In Westmoreland County, for example, high schools



for white students were established at Kinsale in 1908 and at two other sites in 1911. Secondary education for Westmoreland's black population was not available until 1930, when high school classes were offered at a small school in the eastern part of the county. It was 1937 before a full-fledged high school for blacks, built largely with Works Progress Administration funds, was opened in a central location.

Black public education in the Northern Neck received an enormous boost from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, established in 1917 by the president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co. Rosenwald believed that safe, comfortable, and sanitary conditions would contribute to the quality of students' learning experience, and he laid out exacting specifications for constructing and maintaining the buildings. He also insisted that part of the cost of acquiring land and building the schools be borne by local black communities, thus insuring that they had a personal stake. More than 5,000 "Rosenwald Schools" were built in the rural South, with 368 in Virginia. Of these, twenty-two were in the Northern Neck. Perhaps the best known was a school on the outskirts of Reedville founded in 1917 as the Northumberland County Training School. In 1932, it was renamed the Julius Rosenwald High School in honor of its benefactor and served as the county's secondary school for black children until 1958. The Rosenwald High School in Reedville has been the beneficiary of recent preservation effort, while a second Rosenwald school in Kremlin, Westmoreland County, remains in use as a community center.

### **The Legacy of the Past in an Uncertain Future**

At the dawn of the 21st century, the Northern Neck is once again undergoing a transformation. The legacy of the transportation revolution that spurred the resurgence of the Northern Neck in the years after the Civil War has run its course, and the fact that no rail line was ever run down the peninsula has renewed its former isolation. The western end of the Northern Neck has benefited economically from its proximity to the burgeoning Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Only here and in the new waterfront communities throughout the region has development begun to intrude on an otherwise historic landscape, but the eastern end has not shared equally in this prosperity. Agriculture remains the principal activity, with corn, wheat and soybeans replacing the tobacco of the 18th century. The tomato canneries have disappeared, and, while the seafood industry survives, it is greatly diminished, a victim of both exploitation and environmental degradation of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. The steamboats are gone, replaced by bridges that link the Northern Neck to Maryland and the Middle Peninsula. These bridges have made the Northern Neck accessible to a wider region, but this has not benefited everyone equally. Second-home owners and retirees have flocked to the region because of its access to water for recreation and its bucolic lifestyle. For many permanent residents who used to earn a livelihood in the canneries and seafood industry, opportunities have substantially decreased, leaving significant poverty alongside middle-class comfort and pockets of upper-class affluence.

The Northern Neck is distinctive because the continuity with its past remains intact, shaped by its proximity between two great rivers. These rivers facilitated the activities and relationships among American Indians, provided the impetus for European settlement and the growth of a profitable export market in tobacco, wheat, corn, and seafood. The region continues to be shaped by these rivers, as the great highways of early American commerce become places for recreation and retirement. This enduring continuity survives in the legacy of early European, American Indian, African and African-American settlement and land use patterns, and the continued reliance on traditional industries like agriculture and seafood. The past can also be seen in the many waterfront

communities where remnants of the region's post-Civil War transformation are still present, the resort town of Colonial Beach, and the county seats that have continued to serve as the hearts of rural communities throughout the Northern Neck.

## **SELECTED STUDY AREA RESOURCES**

### **Natural Resources**

The landscape within the study area presents a mosaic of natural resources and opportunities for public access and enjoyment as well as provides habitat for diverse species. The five counties within the study area encompass 1,070 square miles, including farms, forests, tidal wetlands, rivers, streams, and marshes. This area consists of 592,000 land acres and 92,800 water acres. Almost 60% of the study area remains relatively intact; wetlands cover more than 40,000 acres (or 6%) of the region, and more than 50% of the region's land area is forested. Most of the rest is in agricultural use. There are more than 1,130 miles of shoreline, which comprise 43% of the total Tidewater shoreline in Virginia.

The Northern Neck lies within the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which is a physiographic region consisting of sediments that, in this part of Virginia, deepen from a feather-edge at the Fall Line to a depth of more than 1,500 feet near the mouth of the Potomac River and to more than 5,000 feet at the Atlantic Ocean. The Northern Neck consists of neckland, upland, and cliffs. The neckland is nearly level and borders most of the waterways and extends into the lower portions of the upland. The dividing line between neckland and upland is mainly marked by a distinct slope or scarp that starts at an elevation of about 50 feet and rises to about 100 feet. Cliffs are found along the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers, with some of the steepest found in Westmoreland State Park. These shoreline features have developed over centuries, as tidal action, streamflow, and storm events have eroded the soils and geologic formations.

**Water Resources.** The Northern Neck is located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The watershed covers approximately 64,000 square miles (approximately 41 million acres). This large watershed is broken into smaller systems, including the Potomac River Basin, which covers more than 14,600 square miles (more than 9 million acres). The river's width varies throughout, but at its widest point it is 11 miles wide.

The Rappahannock River Basin includes the land and water drainage area that flows into the Rappahannock River. The watershed is approximately 2,715 square miles and includes parts of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties as well as other counties outside the Northern Neck. The Rappahannock flows from the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The waterway travels through the fall line geologic formation characterized by rock and rapids. East of Fredericksburg, the Rappahannock enters the Tidewater, where it receives tidal influences from the Chesapeake Bay. The river continues to widen and becomes increasingly brackish as it flows toward Stingray Point and Windmill Point, where it meets the Chesapeake Bay.

**Habitat and Wildlife.** Surrounded by the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, the Northern Neck region has very important habitat for a number of coastal species and plant communities. The region has populations of the globally rare sea-beach knotweed, federally threatened Northeastern beach tiger beetle and least tern, the federally endangered American burying beetle, and the federally endangered bivalve dwarf wedgemussel. In addition, there are many common fish species as well as shellfish, including the blue crab and the American oyster. There is a large array of common mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and insects. Single populations of

Kentucky lady’s slipper, sensitive joint-vetch, and Parker’s pipewort are part of the region’s globally rare flora. According to the Virginia Natural Heritage Program (2012), the Northern Neck has a variety of rare and endangered species represented (see table 2).

**Protected Sites.** The Northern Neck has an extensive number of protected natural areas, helping to create a strong sense of the region’s natural character (see table 3 and figure 2).

**Local Land Trusts.** The Northern Neck has several land trusts that are active in conserving land and natural resources. They include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Northern Neck Land Conservancy, Friends of the Rappahannock, Ducks Unlimited, Land Trust of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Conservation Fund, and the Trust for Public Land. There are more than 40,000 acres of conservation lands in the Northern Neck Recreational Planning Region (table 4).

**Table 2. Natural Resources of the Northern Neck\***

Natural Resources	Count
Number of occurrences of rare species and significant natural communities	227
Number of different rare species and significant community types	38
Number of rare natural heritage elements	17
Number of species listed as federally endangered or threatened	2
Number of species listed as state endangered or threatened	4

\*As of 2015

**Table 3. Conserved Land within the Study Area\***

Protected Sites in the Northern Neck	Count
Conservation sites identified by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	122
Conservation sites with some protection	50
Conservation sites with more than 65% of area with some protection	16
Adequately protected conservation sites	2
National Natural Landmarks	1
National Wildlife Refuge Properties	2

\*As of 2015

**Table 4. Acres of Conserved Land within the Study Area\***

County	Type	Acres
King George	Easement	5,189
King George	Land trust ownership in fee	8,476
Lancaster	Easement	2,559
Lancaster	Land trust ownership in fee	1,414

County	Type	Acres
Northumberland	Easement	3,664
Northumberland	Land trust ownership in fee	718
Richmond	Easement	6,134
Richmond	Land trust ownership in fee	5,905
Westmoreland	Easement	7,430
Westmoreland	Land trust ownership in fee	2,713
<b>Overall Acreage Conserved in Study Area</b>	<b>Easement and Land trust ownership in fee</b>	<b>40,229</b>

\*As of 2015

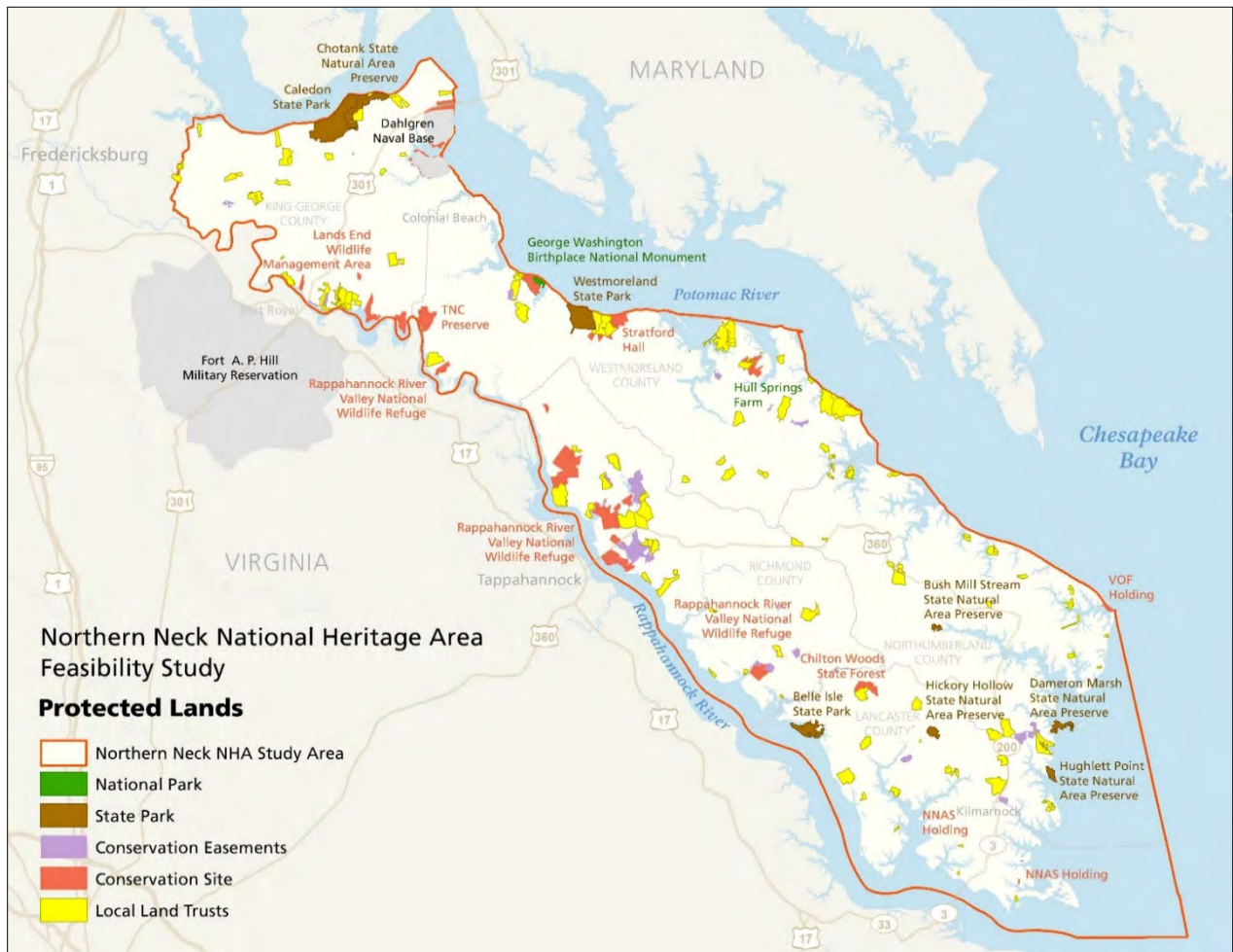


FIGURE 2. PROTECTED LANDS OF THE NORTHERN NECK STUDY AREA

## Publically Accessible Natural Resource Sites

Within the study area, numerous sites present opportunities for public enjoyment of natural resources, including recreation and education. Following is a brief description of a selection of natural resource-related sites:

**Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.** Comprised of 9,030 acres distributed across multiple locations along the Rappahannock River in Essex, King George, Caroline, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties, the refuge preserves fresh water tidal marsh, forest swamp, upland deciduous forest, mixed pine forest, and grassland habitats. The refuge offers numerous recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, and access for canoe and kayaking. The refuge also has many cultural and historic sites, with evidence of colonial settlements as well as being part of the Rappahannock Indigenous Cultural Landscape. Designated as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, it contains a high concentration of bald eagles. The refuge is open year-round and offers an extensive environmental education program. It is administered as part of the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex and operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Westmoreland State Park.** Located in Westmoreland County, the park preserves 1,321 acres, including waterfront along the Potomac River, upland forest, and dramatic cliffs. Originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it offers camping (both cabin and primitive), seven hiking and biking trails, fishing, fossil hunting, a swimming pool, canoe and paddleboat rentals, and a boat launch. The park is open to the public year-round. It is managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**Caledon State Park.** Located in King George County, the park preserves 2,579 acres of old growth forest and bald eagle habitat on the banks of the Potomac River. Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1974, visitor amenities include a visitor center for environmental education, trails, and picnic shelters. It is open to the public year-round. It is managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**Chilton Woods State Forest Park.** Located in Lancaster County, this 397-acre parcel of loblolly pine strands provides upland wildlife habitat as well as ongoing timber harvesting. Streams on the property flow into the Rappahannock. Visitor amenities are limited to a small parking area and hiking trails. Recreational opportunities at the site include birdwatching and hunting. It is managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry and is open year-round.

**Belle Isle State Park.** Located in Lancaster County, this 733-acre park preserves 7 miles of shoreline along the Rappahannock River including extensive tidewater marshes. Situated between Deep and Morattico Creeks, the park presents iconic views of the range of Northern Neck habitats. Visitor amenities include camping (tent, RV, cabin, and lodge), multiuse trails, and a boat launch. Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, it is open to the public year-round.

**Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve.** Located in Northumberland County on the Chesapeake Bay, it preserves 204 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, undeveloped beaches, dunes, and upland forest along the Chesapeake Bay (figure 3). It provides critical habitat for the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle as well as for migrating birds. Visitor amenities include hiking trails, a woodland boardwalk, wildlife viewing platforms, and interpretive signage. Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, it is open to the public year-round.



**FIGURE 3. THE HUGHLETT POINT NATURAL AREA PRESERVE COVERS 204 ACRES IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY**

**Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve.** Located in Northumberland County on the Chesapeake Bay, it preserves 316 acres of some of the most critical wetlands in the bay. It provides critical habitat for the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle as well as for migrating birds. Visitor amenities include hiking trails, a woodland boardwalk, wildlife viewing platforms, interpretive signage, and a small “hand-carry” boat put-in. Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, it is open to the public year-round.

**Lands End Wildlife Management Area.** Located in King George County, this 462-acre refuge is maintained both to provide habitat for migrating wildfowl and to provide wildlife viewing opportunities for its visitors. It offers iconic views of the Northern Neck landscape, including open farmland, woodland, and wetlands, and the Chesapeake Bay. It is managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and is open to the public year-round.

**Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve.** Located in Northumberland County, it preserves 103 acres of forest, tidal marshes, and mud flats at the head of the Great Wicomico River. It provides important habitat for raptors and migrating birds. Visitor amenities include hiking trails, a boardwalk, wildlife viewing platforms, and interpretive signage. Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, it is open to the public year-round.

**Wilmington Landing.** Located in King George County, the site provides non-motorized boat access to the Rappahannock River and its vistas of forest, sand bluffs, and open river. It is managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and is open to the public year-round.

**Westmoreland Berry Farm/Voorhees Nature Preserve.** A combination of agricultural enterprise and nature preserve located in Westmoreland County, the farm is the gateway to the private Voorhees Nature Preserve. The preserve conserves 729 acres of forest and freshwater tidal marsh along the Rappahannock River. Owned by The Nature Conservancy, visitor amenities within the preserve are limited to hiking trails, but other services are available at the farm. It is open to the public from the spring through the fall during the operating hours of the farm.

**Baylor Park.** Located in Lancaster County, this 5.1-acre park provides unique access to a stream and pond system typical of the Northern Neck uplands. Situated adjacent to the town of Kilmarnock, a half-mile nature trail follows an old logging road through heavy woodlands and marsh. It is owned by the Town of Kilmarnock and is open year-round.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The Northern Neck contains an extensive array of colonial-era architecture and cultural landscapes in Tidewater Virginia, as well as museums and a variety of cultural sites (figure 4). These sites have been recognized with varying levels of historic significance on local, national, and state inventories. Several sites enjoy an enhanced level of protection as well as limited required public access through their participation in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' historic easement program (figure 5). The following details some of the primary documented resources and the visitor opportunities they provide.

### **Units of the National Park System**

**George Washington Birthplace National Monument.** Located in Westmoreland County, George Washington Birthplace National Monument preserves archeological remains of the Washington Family plantation, extensive archeological sites documenting 6,000 years of American Indian occupation, and the monuments and structures erected to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. The park includes a visitor center with extensive exhibits on the generations of the Washington family and the people who lived and worked on the plantation, American Indians, and the Colonial Revival movement. Located on the Potomac River and its juncture with Pope's Creek, the views from the park allow the visitor to understand the interplay between water, marsh, field, and forest that characterize the Northern Neck and shaped its unique history. Boardwalks and nature trails allow easy access to its natural resources. The park offers extensive interpretive programs, living history programs, and educational opportunities throughout the year. The park is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays in January and February and open seven days a week the rest of the year, with the exception of Christmas and New Year's Day. Visitor Center hours are from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in January and February and 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. the rest of the year.

### **National Historic Landmarks**

The Northern Neck Study Area contains eight National Historic Landmarks. Seven of these collectively represent the colonial culture of the 18th century that produced many of the leaders of the American Revolution and established the vocabulary of colonial architecture for Tidewater Virginia. The eighth property represents Northern Neck's connection to 20th-century literature. Many of these properties also contain significant archeological resources documenting the American

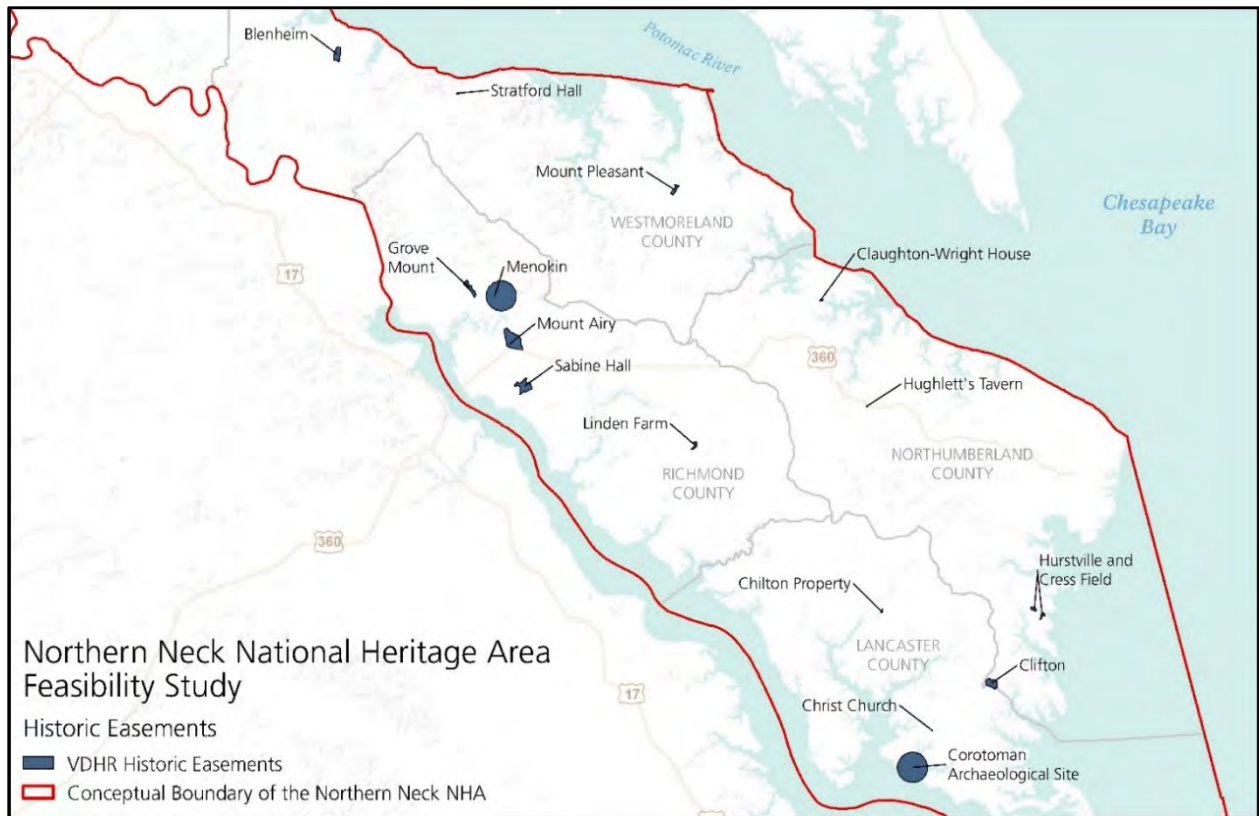


**FIGURE 4. SELECT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES OF THE NORTHERN NECK STUDY AREA**

Indian heritage. Some of the Northern Neck’s National Historic Landmarks are privately owned and not generally open to the public; however, they occasionally open their doors to tours, particularly during Virginia’s “Historic Garden Week” and to satisfy requirements of Virginia Department of Historic Resource easements that mandate public access (see figure 5).

**Stratford Hall.** Located in Westmoreland County, Stratford Hall is the home of the Lees of Virginia. Built in 1730 by the agent and resident manager for the Northern Neck Proprietary Colonel Thomas Lee, its residents included Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Lightfoot Lee (both signers of the Declaration of Independence), Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee (hero of the American Revolution), and Robert E. Lee (Commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia), among others. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 for its unusual early Georgian architectural and historical association with colonial political and military leaders and Civil War General Robert E. Lee.





**FIGURE 5. HISTORIC EASEMENTS HELD BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES**

Stratford Hall is a brick monumental H-plan great hall distinguished by its twin sets of four chimney stacks on its wings, flanked by four service dependencies. Its gardens and walkways, walls, and minor dependencies have been restored, resulting in a complete presentation of the colonial landscape (figure 6).

Managed by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, the property is open to the public year-round. The grounds are open to the public for a fee between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., with house tours on the hour. The collections may be accessed by the public by appointment at the Jessie Ball DuPont Memorial Library on the grounds. The association presents an extensive program of public education, historical research, archeological investigation, and landscape preservation based on its extensive assemblage of historic structures, cultural landscapes, and artifact and archival collections. It also produces an extensive program of special events including historical lectures, exploration of the natural resources, and heritage festivals.

**Mount Airy.** Located in Richmond County, it was built by Colonel John Tayloe in 1764 as a neo-Palladian villa. As the richest Virginian of his generation, the property was used as his home and for breeding his famous line of racing horses. The house consists of a massive, two-story block of local dark limestone flanked by two-story brick dependencies connected to the main structure by brick passageways. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 for architecture. The structures and supporting landscape are in good condition. Mount Airy is privately owned and not open to the public.



**FIGURE 6. STRATFORD HALL, THE CHILDHOOD HOME OF FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE AND RICHARD HENRY LEE AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT E. LEE.**

**Sabine Hall.** Located in Richmond County, it was built around 1730 by Landon Carter, son of Robert “King” Carter. The main structure is a seven-bay brick, Georgian-style two-story manor house flanked by later one-and-one-half-story brick wings. Its interior contains original woodwork; its central hall has been described as “one of the most superb architectural documents in the country.” It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 for its significance in art and architecture. The structures and landscape are in good condition as are its extensive collection of family portraits and furniture. The house is privately owned by direct descendants of the builder and is not open to the public.

**Menokin.** Located in Westmoreland County, it was the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The remains of the structure—originally a two-story, limestone, Georgian neo-Palladian plantation house—are undergoing an extensive and innovative program of restoration by the Menokin Foundation. The house, its surrounding landscape, and associated archeological sites (including pre-contact American Indian sites) have been stabilized and the subject of an extensive public program of interpretation and preservation under development (figure 7).



**FIGURE 7. MENOKIN – A PLANTATION ONCE OWNED BY FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE IN RICHMOND COUNTY, IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF AN INNOVATIVE RESTORATION AND STABILIZATION PROGRAM**

The Menokin Foundation has stabilized the remains (80% of the historic fabric remains, including extensive sections of its interior woodwork), constructed a protective shelter over the structure, and is undertaking an innovative rehabilitation of the structure based on the Historic American Buildings Survey drawings made in 1940 prior to its deterioration. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 for its association with Francis Lightfoot Lee and its 18th-century cultural landscape.

The site is open to the public year-round and includes a visitor center (open weekdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), trails, and views of the house; guided tours are available for a fee. It sponsors a regular lecture series on the history and resources of the Northern Neck.

**Yeocomico Church.** Located in Westmoreland County, Yeocomico Church was built in 1706 and architecturally represents a transition from the 17th-century Gothic style to the 18th-century Georgian style. The brickwork of the t-shaped structure features a list of novel (for its era) and unique details that represent the art of the craftsmen and their vernacular tradition (figure 8).



**FIGURE 8. YEOCOMICO CHURCH – A HISTORIC EPISCOPAL CHURCH BUILT IN 1706, IS STILL IN USE TODAY**

The church is in good condition, although its interior has been replaced. It was designated a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 for its architectural significance as the only surviving colonial church in Westmoreland County.

The church is owned by its congregation and remains in active use and accessible to the public. Services are held on Sundays at 11:00 a.m., and the church is also open the last Saturday of summer months from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for guided tours.

**Christ Church.** Located in Lancaster County, it is one of the best-preserved colonial churches in the southern United States; its exterior is complete and it retains its original pews and pulpit (figure 9). Built in 1732, it is owned by the Foundation for Historic Christ Church who maintains the site as a museum. The brick church is built in a cruciform plan with typical Georgian features and contains an exceptionally complete interior. The property is in good condition, and it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 for its architectural significance as one of the best-preserved colonial Virginian churches.

The foundation operates a visitor center (the Carter Reception Center with museum exhibits that is open every day from April through November) and offers tours of the church (on the same schedule as the reception center). The foundation offers an extensive school program at the site as well as a regular lecture series on the heritage of colonial Virginia. It is accessible to the public year-round.

**Spence's Point.** Spence's Point, located on the Potomac River near Westmoreland, was the home of 20th-century novelist and poet John R. Dos Passos (1896-1970). Dos Passos's father purchased a sizable tract of farmland on the Northern Neck and John visited Spence's Point during childhood vacations. In 1949, the established author moved into the Westmoreland County property and lived



**FIGURE 9. CHRIST CHURCH, A HISTORIC EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN LANCASTER COUNTY, WAS BUILT BETWEEN 1732 AND 1735**

there until his death. During his time at Spence's Point, Dos Passos wrote 18 books, mainly histories and travel memoirs. The home, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971 for its association with the author, remains privately owned and is not open to the public.

### **National Register of Historic Places Properties**

The Northern Neck Study Area contains 73 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the James Monroe Family Home Site in Westmoreland County. Collectively, the properties represent the history of the Northern Neck spanning from prehistoric archeology sites with evidence of early human inhabitants to 20th-century colonial revival homes. The majority of the Northern Neck's National Register properties are recognized as locally significant for their representation of architectural styles or their archeological potential. These above-mentioned properties are included in the resource inventory presented in appendix B. Additional historic structures are included in the Virginia Landmarks Register, the Commonwealth's official list of places of historic, architectural, archeological, and/or cultural significance.

Many historic and cultural properties within the study area may meet criteria for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register or National Register of Historic Places but have not been documented and evaluated. It is likely that additional buildings and sites have local or state significance for their association with significant events and/or individuals, architectural value, or potential to yield additional information about history or prehistory will continue to be added to the registers in the future.

## **Historic Museums and Cultural Sites**

In addition to George Washington Birthplace National Monument and the National Historic Landmarks that offer visitor experiences, the study area contains an extensive array of museums and cultural sites open to the public, each with a mission that supports the interpretation of the heritage of the Northern Neck. Spanning the length of the Northern Neck, together they offer educational, interpretive, and preservation programs relating to the national story of the area and its significant historic themes. They include the following locations.

**Armstead Tasker Johnson Museum, Montross, Westmoreland County.** Located in one of the first high schools built for African-American students in the Northern Neck, the museum is a repository of collections, artifacts, memorabilia, documents, and other items related to education of African Americans in the area. Built in 1937, the school served the community until 1988 when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is open to the public by appointment.

**Dahlgren Heritage Museum, Dahlgren, King George County.** Located on the Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, the museum preserves and interprets the naval technology developed at the facility and its contribution to national defense as well as the traditions, heritage, and culture of the community. The museum also provides space and facilities for recreation and community events. The museum is operated by a private foundation and is open to the public on Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**James Monroe Birthplace Site and Visitor Center, Colonial Beach, Westmoreland County.** In 1758, James Monroe was born on this site on his family's farm. He would go on to become one of three presidents born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Monroe lived and worked on this farm with his family until leaving for his education at the College of William and Mary. Although the Monroe's modest farmhouse was removed during the 19th century, the family home site was listed in the National Register of Historic Place in 1979 for its archeological potential (figure 10). The site contains the archeological evidence of the Monroe farm and a visitor center to educate the public about the Monroe family's experience at this location. The James Monroe Foundation, the owner and managing entity, is currently reconstructing the Monroe Family farmhouse at the site.

**Kilmarnock Museum, Kilmarnock, Lancaster County.** Located in the community's oldest house, the museum exhibits collections and artifacts documenting the history of the town. It is open to the public March through December; Thursday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**King George County Museum, King George Courthouse, King George County.** Located at the King George County Museum is the home of the King George Historical Society; it contains historical exhibits on the area and a collection of historical and genealogical resources. It is open to the public on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**FIGURE 10. JAMES MONROE BIRTHPLACE – THE HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE WHERE THE CHILDHOOD HOME OF JAMES MONROE ONCE STOOD, TODAY MARKED WITH A MONUMENT AND INTERPRETIVE WAYSIDE**

**Kinsale Foundation and Museum, Kinsale, Westmoreland County.** Located on the historic waterfront, the museum serves as the gateway to the Kinsale National Register Historic District. It presents a collection of artifacts, documents, and ship models that document the maritime heritage of the community and its links to the agricultural landscape. The museum sponsors seasonal community events. It is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library, Lancaster, Lancaster County.** The museum preserves and interprets the history of Lancaster County and the Northern Neck (figure 11). Operated since 1958 by volunteers, the museum is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



**FIGURE 11. THE OLD LANCASTER JAIL IS A HISTORIC BUILDING IN LANCASTER COUNTY, AND A PART OF THE MARY BALL WASHINGTON MUSEUM AND LIBRARY**

**Morattico Waterfront Museum, Morattico, Lancaster County.** Located in a historic waterfront structure, the Morattico Waterfront Museum serves as the gateway to the Village of Morattico National Register District (figure 12). It preserves and interprets the history and culture of the village and serves as a community center for special heritage events. It is open to the public from May to October—Saturdays 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, Montross, Westmoreland County.** The society maintains a reference library documenting the history of the counties comprising the Northern Neck, including historic newspapers, family records, church and cemetery guides, and immigration lists. It is open by appointment. The society annually presents its Hanbury Award to recognize private preservation of the area’s historic structures.

**Northumberland County Historical Society, Heathsville, Northumberland County.** The Society preserves the history and genealogy of the county and the Northern Neck. Its library is open Wednesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The society preserves the 1844 “Old Jail” in Heathsville.





**FIGURE 12. MORATTICO WATERFRONT MUSEUM PRESERVES THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF WATERFRONT LIFE IN LANCASTER COUNTY**

**Reedville Fishermen’s Museum, Reedville, Northumberland County.** The museum is dedicated to preserving the heritage of the fishermen and watermen of the Northern Neck and the Chesapeake Bay. Housed in historic structures along Cockrell Creek, the museum offers an extensive program of interpretation, education, and hands-on preservation. It operates a fleet of historic Chesapeake Bay ships—two of which, the Elva C. and the Claud W. Somers are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (figure 13). It sponsors more than a dozen community heritage events along with a monthly lecture series. It is open to the public.

**Richmond County Museum, Warsaw, Richmond County.** Located in the Old Jail on Richmond Green, the museum features permanent and rotating exhibits on the history of Richmond County including American Indian and African American heritage. The museum sponsors a limited number of community events including historic house tours.

**Northern Neck Farm Museum, Heathsville, Northumberland County.** The museum offers visitors exhibits and interpretive programs on agriculture in the Northern Neck and hosts community events tied to the agricultural year. It presents an extensive collection of historical agricultural tools and machines and a community garden. The museum is open on weekends from May through October.

**Steamboat Era Museum, Irvington, Lancaster County.** The museum offers exhibits and artifacts on the steamboat passenger era of the Chesapeake Bay. These include interpretive panels, model steamships, and architectural fragments of steamships. The museum conducts and curates an extensive oral history of the era. Open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from March through December, it is available year-round for scheduled school groups.

**Richmond County Museum, Warsaw, Richmond County.** Located in the Old Jail on Richmond Green, the museum features permanent and rotating exhibits on the history of Richmond County including American Indian and African American heritage. The museum sponsors a limited number of community events including historic house tours.



**FIGURE 13. THE REEDVILLE FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM SUPPORTS EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY FISHERIES**

## RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The five-county study area is traversed by a series of established state and national trails that emphasize both natural and cultural resources and provide access and orientation to the resources in the Northern Neck. These include driving trails, hiking trails, and water trails (figure 14).

**Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Water Trail.** This trail, part of the NPS national trail system, includes water segments in the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Commemorating the explorations of the earliest Virginia colonists, the trail provides a mapped water route and interpretive opportunities that follow their historic journeys. The trail, which is accessible at various points throughout the Northern Neck, works in cooperation with public land managers for access to the water trail.

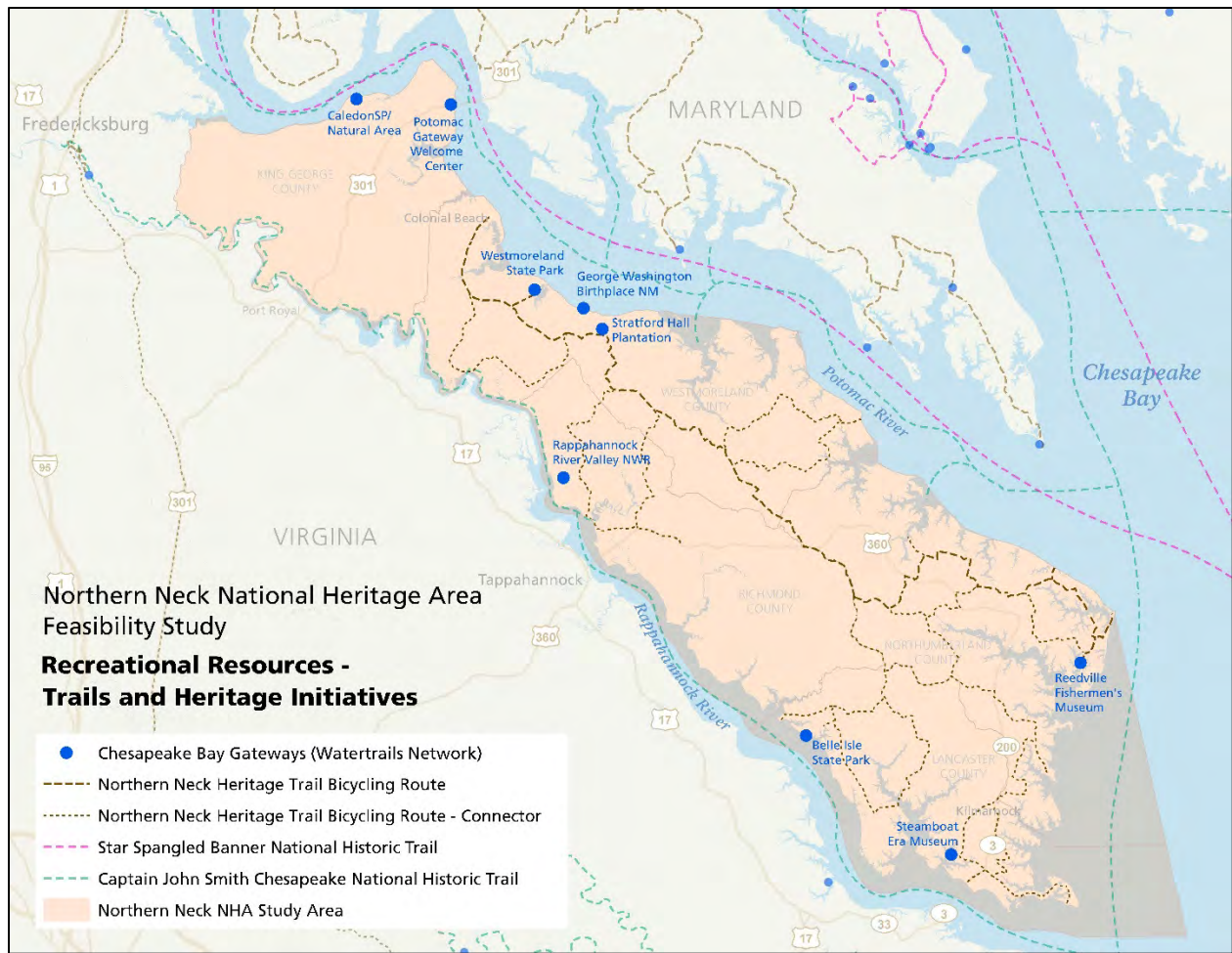
**Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.** This trail, part of the NPS national trail system, includes a water segment in the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay adjacent to the five-county study area. Commemorating the actions of the War of 1812, the trail provides a marked water route and interpretive opportunities. The trail, which promotes numerous historical sites and museums in the Northern Neck, works in cooperation with public land managers for access to the water trails.

**Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail.** The Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail traces several hundred miles through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. The trail follows the route of General Rochambeau's French Army and General Washington's Continental Army on their 1781 march to fight the British Army in Yorktown, Virginia. The two allied armies moved hundreds of miles to become the largest troop movement of the American Revolution. The trail includes a formal stop in the Northern Neck at George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Auto tours are available and biking and hiking routes are under development.

**Chesapeake Bay Gateways (Water Trails Network)** The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails Network connects the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay watershed through more than 170 parks, wildlife refuges, museums, sailing ships, historic communities, and trails. These partner and water trails provide access to the authentic Chesapeake. The network is coordinated by the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Office.

**Northern Neck Heritage Trail Bicycling Route.** This 88.1-mile trail extends from Colonial Beach to Reedville, connecting the Northern Neck's most significant defining cultural and natural resources, including most of the National Historic Landmarks, many of its natural sites along the south shore of the Potomac, and regional museums. It is a segment of the larger Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Network that runs from Leesburg, Virginia, to Reedville, Virginia, at the southern point of the Northern Neck. The bicycling route is managed by the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Office in cooperation with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission (NNTC).

**Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail – Northern Neck Loop.** This trail begins in Caledon State Natural Area and ends at Hewlett Point Natural Area Preserve. Traversing each of the five counties in the study area, it features viewing access to the largest concentration of bald eagles in the Eastern Seaboard, as well as extensive vistas of the waterways as they meet the Chesapeake Bay. It is coordinated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and is part of a Commonwealth-wide system.



**FIGURE 14. ESTABLISHED HERITAGE TRAILS OF THE NORTHERN NECK STUDY AREA**

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) Highway Markers.** The Virginia Department of Historic Resources maintains a network of 93 roadside markers within the study area that commemorate the historic social, political, and economic history of the Northern Neck. These include each of the National Historic Landmarks, many of the properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and events for which no resources are extant or for properties that are not accessible to the public. They form an important interpretive system linking together the area’s heritage.

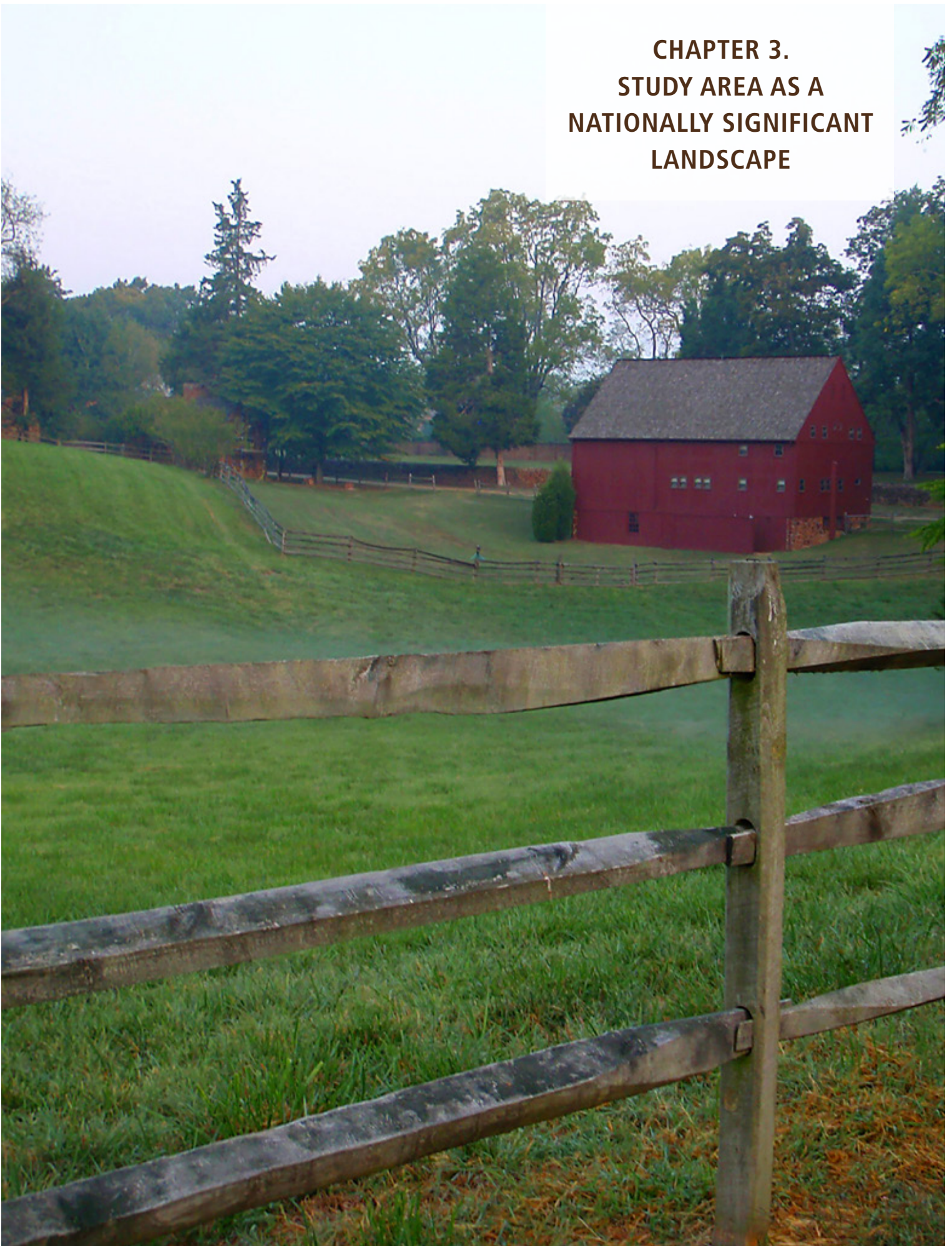
**Themed Itineraries/Tourism Trails.**

- **Northern Neck Artisan Trail.** Part of the Virginia Artisan Trail Network, the Northern Neck Artisan Trail promotes creative excursions and businesses related to artisan enterprises. The trail’s website includes information about artisans, agri-artisans, makers, and restaurants/businesses that promote locally made goods.
- **Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail.** The wine trail promotes the wineries found within and near the Northern Neck. Member wineries, some of which are located on historic farms and estates, offer tours, tastings, and themed special events that promote area dining and viniculture.

- **Virginia Oyster Trail.** The statewide oyster trail is a “visitor-directed ‘journey of discovery’ program” that highlights watermen, aqua-artisan, and maritime businesses through hospitality, creative, culinary, cultural, and activity sites. The trail is designed to cultivate local economies and support traditional maritime activities associated with Virginia’s eight oyster flavor regions. The Northern Neck is included in the Middle Bay Western Shore region, which extends to both shores of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. The trail’s website promotes hotels, restaurants, cultural sites, events, and communities with ties to oystering.

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**CHAPTER 3.  
STUDY AREA AS A  
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
LANDSCAPE**



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## CHAPTER 3: STUDY AREA AS A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE

### HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

To determine whether the study area contains nationally important themes and strategic assemblages of resources that helped shape the national story, the study team analyzed the historic context of Virginia's Northern Neck. This analysis helped identify the study area's national significance and the development of proposed NHA themes and significance to determine if there was a *nationally important landscape*, one of the first steps in determining a potential national heritage area's appropriateness.

According to the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, nationally important landscapes are places that contain important regional and national stories that, together with their associated natural and/or cultural resources, enable the American people to understand, preserve, and celebrate key components of the multifaceted character of the nation's heritage. The landscapes are often places that represent and contain identifiable assemblages of resources with integrity associated with one or more of the following:

1. Important historical periods of the nation and its people.
2. Major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantively to the nation's history, customs, beliefs, and folklore.
3. Distinctive cultures and cultural mores.
4. Major industries and technological, business, and manufacturing innovations/practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantively to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people.
5. Transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce.
6. Social movements that substantively influenced past and present-day society.
7. American art, crafts, literature, and music.
8. Distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements.
9. Major scientific discoveries and advancements.
10. Other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage.

To determine if the study area is feasible as a national heritage area, the study team must first determine if there is an identifiable, nationally important story. Therefore, the study area's ability to meet the high threshold of significance of a *nationally important landscape* is an essential part of a national heritage area feasibility study process.

The term "landscape" also encompasses the ecological and cultural context for historic and cultural sites, as well as the ecosystems and human communities surrounding those sites.

In this study, the *determination of national importance* is described in this chapter as a key aspect in determining the proposed overall NHA story; its significance statement and supporting significant attributes and interpretive themes, which are described in chapter 4. This analysis is a preliminary step before the study team analyzes the 10 NHA criteria for evaluation. The determination of

national importance includes an analysis of study area resources to determine whether there exists a strategic assemblage of related resources capable of supporting interpretation of an area of significance.

For the purpose of this analysis, the term “strategic assemblage of resources” is defined as a concentration of resources that together support the statement of significance. To comprise a strategic assemblage, these resources must be directly associated with the significance statement and themes to enable an authentic experience of the national story. The resources must also be fully documented to confirm the resource’s significance and integrity. To be an assemblage, such resources must also be geographically close to one another to: 1) form a cohesive landscape, 2) be efficiently and comprehensively managed by one coordinating entity, and 3) enable interpretation of the area of significance. If the individual resources are too widely dispersed to form a cohesive whole, or if the resources are too few in number, any of these important aspects of a national heritage area could be diminished.

### **Areas of Significance and Themes Identified During Public Outreach**

The following are detailed descriptions of potential areas of significance identified during public outreach activities and considered during the significance and themes workshop organized by the National Park Service.

**Waterways – Connectivity and Isolation.** Bound by the broad estuaries of the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, the five counties of Virginia’s Northern Neck form a peninsula that extends more than 70 miles into the Chesapeake Bay but is never more than 20-miles wide. These surrounding waterways linked the Northern Neck to a wider Atlantic world while also providing a sense of isolation that survived into the 20th century. Over time, the waterways that surround Virginia’s Northern Neck served contrary functions, which contributed to the peninsula’s evolution and distinct culture. First, Virginia tribes viewed the surrounding rivers as a link and continuation to their lands. The Rappahannock would seasonally move between villages located in the Northern Neck on the north shore of the Rappahannock River to hunting grounds in the Middle Peninsula on the river’s south shore. The river was viewed as an opportunity to best utilize the region’s resources and create self-reliance, not as a boundary or impediment.

Water served as a significant transportation artery that connected the Northern Neck peninsula to the outside world, contributing to the success of the Rappahannock people and economic growth and influence during early European settlement. Later, as transportation moved to predominately land-based methods, the waterways served as a barrier that isolated and protected the people of the Northern Neck and their way of life.

The natural environment of the low-lying region includes various habitats (shoreline, rivers, streams, tidal wetlands, marshes, forests, upland, and cliffs) along the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. The potential of these natural resources attracted the inhabitants to the Northern Neck, from Virginia American Indians to Captain John Smith and his party to the later establishment of colonial settlements and plantations.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, established in 2006 as the nation’s first historic water trail, highlights the natural and historic resources of the Chesapeake Bay. The trail runs approximately 3,000 miles chronicling Smith’s 1608 voyage on the Chesapeake Bay and his excursions on Tidewater rivers between 1607 and 1609 and passes through Virginia, Maryland,

Delaware, and Washington, DC. Numerous Northern Neck sites are included on the trail, including local museums, historic properties, and state parks. The historic trail illustrates the extent of Smith's travels and the breadth of resources that are associated with this potential theme in the larger Chesapeake region.

The identity of people in the Northern Neck has been shaped by deep connections and continuity rooted in the land and water across many generations and reflected in their separate and shared values, cultures, and traditions. Surrounded by water and with only one main vehicular connection to mainland Virginia, the Northern Neck peninsula today remains relatively isolated from the rapidly developing Washington, DC, metropolitan area. As such, the landscape acts as a visible and tangible record of a culture that has derived its livelihood and culture from the land and surrounding sea.

**A Representative Chesapeake Landscape.** The Potomac travels more than 400 miles through Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC, before passing along the north side of the Northern Neck Peninsula. The almost 200-mile long Rappahannock River flows through eastern Virginia, flowing past the south shore of the Northern Neck while connecting Fredericksburg to the Chesapeake Bay. The three other Virginia peninsulas are similarly defined by rivers: the Eastern Shore is connected to Maryland and occupies a peninsula within the Chesapeake Bay; Virginia's Middle Peninsula sits between the Rappahannock and York Rivers; and the Lower Peninsula, sometimes called the Virginia Peninsula, juts out from the York and James Rivers. All of these rivers contribute to the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed, a 64,000-square-mile system that stretches from the District of Columbia to New York and makes up the second largest estuary in the United States and one of the most biologically productive estuaries in the world. Natural resources connected to this potential theme of Northern Neck waterways, including geologic formations, wildlife, and marine life, are also found beyond the study area. Geologic formations, species habitats, and watersheds associated with the Northern Neck extend far into Virginia and neighboring Maryland. Stories, traditions, geology, and natural resources associated with the Chesapeake Bay are components of a much larger, interstate landscape that extend into Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Existing NPS efforts highlight the interconnectedness and national significance of the Chesapeake watershed's resources. In 2003, the National Park Service established a Chesapeake Bay Office to coordinate engagement efforts over the 64,000-acre bay watershed and oversee the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Networks. The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office's mission is to protect the natural, scenic, and cultural values of the bay and conserve special places associated with the Chesapeake. It oversees NPS planning programs related to watershed health, conservation, and interpretation, and actively works with federal, state, and local partners on various initiatives with a focus on watershed-wide land conservation of landscapes crucial to water quality and habitat health; lands of cultural and community value; and working forests, farms and maritime communities.<sup>3</sup>

The office was also asked by Congress to complete a special resource study to determine if there was potential for future Chesapeake Bay NPS units. The 2004 study concluded that the Chesapeake Bay and watershed were nationally significant and one or more park concepts could offer additional protection and visitor enjoyment opportunities of the watershed's resources. Since the study was completed, two national trails have been created that trace historic routes through the Chesapeake's

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3. National Park Service, "Chesapeake Bay," 2017, March 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/chba/learn/management/about-us.htm>; National Park Service, *National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office 2014 Strategy and Operational Review*, Spring 2014, March 2017, [https://www.nps.gov/chba/learn/management/upload/CHBA\\_interactive\\_5-30\\_pages.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/chba/learn/management/upload/CHBA_interactive_5-30_pages.pdf).

waterways. The 2,000-mile Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail follows early English exploration around the Tidewater region and focuses on natural history, scenic resources, and American Indian/English colonial ties to the bay. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, established in 2008, tells the story of the War of 1812 through the places and resources of the Chesapeake Region. These historic trails highlight the region's waterways as historic transportation corridors as well as the rivers' contributions to the natural and cultural history of the Northern Neck and the larger Chesapeake region.

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, created by Congress in 1983, is one of the earliest NPS efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed and to cultivate local and regional partnerships based on watershed health, resource protection, and recreational opportunities. The trail includes a network of locally managed land and water trails that run from the Chesapeake Bay to the Allegheny Highlands and can be explored by hiking, biking, or paddling. The trail's network of federal, state, local, and nonprofit partners work together to build connectivity between trail segments to connect scenic, historic, and natural resources from Pennsylvania to the Tidewater and find ways to combat increasing development found in urban areas along the river.<sup>4</sup> A potential national heritage area in the Northern Neck would highlight natural, historic, and cultural resources that contribute to the existing NPS programs in the region and provide additional opportunities to connect to the waterways and historic resources in a largely undeveloped and unchanged peninsula associated with the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

**American Indians of the Rappahannock.** There is archeological evidence of people inhabiting Tidewater Virginia for the past 10,000 years. Nomadic groups of people first traveled through Northern Neck seasonally to hunt, gather plants, and fish. Gradually these groups began spending more time in the region and developed permanent communities based around agriculture and adapted to the geographic environment of coastal Virginia. Numerous tribal groups were located near the Chesapeake, and as many as of 50,000 individuals lived in the region before English settlement. Descendants of these people make up the 11 tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Of these historic tribes, seven can trace their roots to the Algonquian-speaking people who lived on the Northern Neck.

At the time of English exploration and settlement in the early 17th century, Rappahannock tribal land extended along both banks of the Rappahannock River in areas that now make up the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. John Smith mapped 14 tribal villages along the northern bank of the Rappahannock River during his 1608 expedition, with the capital town of "Topahanocke" moving between the north side of the river and the southern hunting ground on a seasonal basis. Increasing illegal English settlement pushed tribal members inland during the 1640s and later to the Middle Peninsula near their ancestral hunting areas. Increasing hostilities and encroachment by English settlements following Bacon's Rebellion pushed tribal members to consolidate into one village located on the Middle Peninsula. While the Virginia Council set aside 3,474 acres of reserved land for the Rappahannock Tribe at the site of the established village in 1682, in 1683, the Rappahannocks were forcibly merged with the Portobago tribe, and the Essex County militia removed the approximately 70 remaining tribal members to the existing Portobago town site along the Upper Rappahannock. In 1705, the Nanzatico tribe, which lived across the Rappahannock River from the combined Rappahannock-Portobago reservation, was sold into slavery in the West Indies. When the Essex County militia ultimately removed the Rappahannock-Portobago from the reservation lands in

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4. National Park Service, "Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail," 2017, March 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/pohe/index.htm>.

the early 18th century so the land could be patented by English settlers, the Rappahannock returned to their ancestral lands downriver.

Recognizing the importance of tribal recognition, the Rappahannocks incorporated in 1921. By the 20th century, the Rappahannock Nation included descendants of the Rappahannock tribe and other Algonquian tribes associated with the area that were removed in the 18th century, including the Morattico, Portobago, and Doeg tribes. While tribal members continued their traditions and self-identified as Rappahannock, the Virginia Racial Integrity Act of 1924 forced all Virginians to identify as either “white” or “colored” on birth and marriage certificates to ensure against interracial marriages. This classification, which defined “white” as having no trace of African ancestry and one-sixteenth or less of American Indian ancestry and everyone else as “colored,” effectively erased American Indians from Virginia population records and made it almost impossible to create membership lists that meet criteria for state and local recognition. The Racial Integrity Act was deemed unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967), a case where the interracial marriage of Richard Loving, a white man, and Mildred Loving, a woman of African and Rappahannock descent, struck down almost 300 years of states regulating marriage because of race.

Even without official state or federal recognition, the Rappahannock people moved forward with asserting their identity, and working tirelessly towards their independence and group recognition and in 1964, the tribe established the Rappahannock Indian Baptist Church in Tappahannock, Virginia. In 1983, the Commonwealth of Virginia formally recognized the Rappahannock Nation, allowing tribal members to formally continue efforts to preserve the history, traditions, and lifeways associated with the group. In 1998, the tribe purchased more than 100 acres of land on the Middle Peninsula for housing and a cultural center. Finally, after decades of tireless work, the Rappahannock Tribe received federal recognition through the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, signed into law on January 12, 2018.

The Rappahannock Nation continues to be traditionally connected to the waterways and resources that define the Northern Neck. Although the tribe was repeatedly removed from ancestral lands to accommodate English settlement, members continued to associate with the Rappahannock River over the centuries and self-identified as a distinct group even when faced with a 20th-century “paper genocide” associated with the Racial Integrity Act. With the purchase of tribal land in 1998, continuations of cultural practices, and the annual events that celebrate the Rappahannocks’ connection to the land and waters, the tribe has worked tirelessly to physically represent its continued connection to the land within the Rappahannock River Valley. While almost a century passed between the official incorporation of the tribe in 1921 and its federal recognition in 2018, the Rappahannock embody the attitude of independence and revolutionary thought that are evident in the study area.

**Early American Politics in the Northern Neck.** The Northern Neck was home to families prominent in the early days of the Virginia colony as well as the birthplace of Presidents Washington, Madison, and Monroe, and General Robert E. Lee and other early American leaders. It was the place where ideas important to the foundation of our nation were raised and debated and helped to shape the political development of the nation.

Starting with the 17th-century English land grants on the Northern Neck, the area cultivated some of Virginia’s most successful families. The distance between the northern peninsula and the colonial government in Williamsburg made travel between the two cultural and economic hubs difficult and allowed Northern Neck gentry to develop largely independent from colonial government oversight

seen closer to Williamsburg on the Lower Peninsula. This resulted in the creation of local land barons such as Robert “King” Carter as well as an informed gentry class that balanced economic success from tobacco plantations based on enslaved labor and shipping with revolutionary ideas like self-government and colonial rights.

Richard Henry Lee and Landon Carter, sons of two of Northern Neck’s largest 18th century landholding and economic dynasties, were politically involved and at the forefront of protesting the 1774 Stamp Act. Richard participated in both Continental Congresses and led the motion to accept the Declaration of Independence, which he then signed along with his brother Francis Lightfoot Lee and three of Robert Carter’s descendants.

Three of the first five Presidents of the United States were born within a 20-mile radius on the Northern Neck: George Washington, James Madison, and James Monroe. These Founding Fathers are remembered for their contributions in forming the young nation’s identity and their lasting political legacies. While the Northern Neck peninsula accounted for a small portion of the British Colony of Virginia, it was home to some of the most outspoken protesters of British colonial rule that are remembered alongside other well-known patriots including Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and the Adams family. The revolutionary ideology embodied by the signers of the Declaration of Independence, political authors, and early United States presidents is part of a nationally significant story associated with the landscape of the Northern Neck.

**Marine Industry and Lifeways.** The aquaculture of the Northern Neck embodies the idea of continued land use and folkways throughout the study area and the larger Chesapeake region. Small, regional industries much like Northern Neck’s menhaden and oyster operations, have long been the lifeblood of communities along transportation corridors as producers of similar goods clustered together to make the most of shared resources and workforce. Similar oyster operations are found throughout the Chesapeake Bay, as illustrated by the area included in the Virginia Oyster Trail, a recent tourism branding effort that extends across the larger Tidewater region.

The menhaden industry emerged in the Northern Neck after the Civil War as the small fish gained popularity as a source for oil, meal, and fertilizer. By the 1920s, the Northern Neck was a center of menhaden fishing and processing and the industry was responsible for much of the peninsula’s early-20th-century wealth, with Reedville becoming one of the wealthiest towns in the nation. The industry continues today, with the Reedville Fish Plant operating as the only menhaden rendering plant on the East Coast.

Although the number of menhaden fishing operations declined throughout the second half of the 20th century, at least one of the local watermen’s traditions lives on. Founded in 1991, the Northern Neck Chantey Singers keep the tradition of chanteys and work songs alive by performing tunes that would have once coordinated menhaden fishing crews while pulling in the rope nets that held their catch. The group, which consists of African American watermen who worked in the industry and often sang chanteys, is similar to acapella groups found in North Carolina and across the country that focus on African American work songs.

**Persistence of Place.** Beginning with English settlement in the 18th century, the people of the Northern Neck came to see their land as a “place apart,” with a local dialect and a distinctive landscape. Despite the overwhelming hospitality of the people, while traveling throughout the Northern Neck one can often hear the phrase, “a ‘come here’ or a ‘from here’” and no matter how long one resides in the Northern Neck, one is only a “from here” if one was born on the Northern

Neck. This jolly distinction helps to explain the pride of place and the indivisible tie to the land. This pride of place and continuity of people rooted in the land is evident throughout the peninsula today.

In the Colonial era, the Northern Neck peninsula developed within a Tidewater Virginia economy based on tobacco plantations and dependent on enslaved labor, but even then, its leaders were often at odds with the ruling faction at Williamsburg. Through recurring economic cycles, the Northern Neck came to see itself as a distinctive landscape. Despite many changes and adaptations, the region's economy remained based on fishing, forestry, and farming, and this essential continuity has bequeathed a characteristic spacious and largely rural landscape.

There have always been inextricable ties between the people of the Northern Neck and its land and water resources as sources of economic activity and recreation. The economic impact of waterways as connections to and a separation from the larger Chesapeake Bay region is visible in the development of the vernacular landscape. From the 17th century through the early 19th century, the waterways enabled transportation to the markets in the larger region and beyond. As transportation methods changed to railroads and highways, the economy of the study area remained rural and based on water and agricultural resources as the Northern Neck was separated from the mainland. In the 20th century, the rural nature of the peninsula inspired the use of the land and waterways for recreation and the development of resort areas such as Colonial Beach. Public lands were also set aside for recreational use and for the appreciation of natural resources in places like Westmoreland State Park and Caledon Natural Area.

The rural way of life continues to thrive in the Northern Neck, with fishing and agriculture remaining key industries throughout the five-county study area. The smaller farms owned by descendants of colonial families are indicative of larger economic shifts experienced around the Chesapeake Bay as large land holdings created through colonial land speculation passed down through the generations. Estates that first developed as tobacco plantations run with enslaved African Americans were often parceled between numerous inheritors and converted to share cropping operations after the Civil War. As productivity declined under the new system, local economies looked to address the economic gap through emerging industries, as exemplified through the Northern Neck's menhaden fishing and tourism developments of the early 20th century. Communities found throughout the Tidewater in coastal Virginia and Maryland experienced similar evolutions and have comparable historic and cultural resources, which can be seen when comparing National Register of Historic places properties, historic districts, and local historic sites in the study area to those found throughout the Tidewater region.

The study area has a long history of agricultural use dating back to the earliest 17th-century British land grants, with the area's economy and architecture mirroring the 18th-century rise of the plantation system, the region's turn toward the sea and fishing industries following the Civil War, and the emergence of 20th-century tourism based on the area's natural resources and quieter way of life. Today, numerous visitor attractions and local museums celebrate the area's traditional agricultural uses and maritime history: the Westmoreland Berry Farm (Colonial Beach), Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern (Heathsville), the Northern Neck Farm Museum (Heathsville), Kinsale Museum (Kinsale), Reedville Fishermen's Museum (Reedville), Steamboat Era Museum (Irvington), Dalhgren Heritage Museum (King George), Northumberland County Historical Society (Heathsville), and Richmond County Museum (Warsaw).

**Attitude of Independence.** The Northern Neck is known as the “Birthplace of American Presidents” for the birth sites of George Washington, James Madison, and James Monroe, all within a 20-mile radius. While these may be the best-known sons of the Northern Neck, throughout the time, residents of the study area seem to share the same overall sense of rights of the individual and revolutionary thought exemplified by America’s founding fathers. Stories of the Northern Neck’s inhabitants that are told through traditions, cultural practices, historic and archeological resources, and landscapes showcase the persistence and dedication to the ideals of independence, self-reliance, and self-identification.

Colonial political leaders from the peninsula, which included the Lee brothers, George Washington, James Monroe, and James Madison, supported American independence and were crucial to the success of the Leedstown Resolves, the Declaration of Independence, and early years of the American Republic.

The African Americans and Native Americans of the Northern Neck, who were not included in English settlers’ conversations about equality and self-reliance, fought for and created avenues of social and economic independence through rich oral traditions, community supported access to education, the establishment of social institutions, and by embracing the individually economically liberating industries of fishing and other commerce along the bordering rivers. While these groups were denied opportunities for advancement even into the 20th century, their struggles toward freedom and self-determination embody the striving for independence identified as the national theme associated with the Northern Neck study area.

These complex stories, dealing with the ideals of freedom, self-reliance, emancipation, and revolutionary thought, are now told through the surviving historic and archeological resources in the study area as well as the broader, unchanged rural landscape and waterways.

### **Other Thematic Topics Considered**

The study team explored numerous preliminary thematic topics suggested by the public in the early stages of this study through research and analysis. Some individual resources in the Northern Neck with national historic significance, such as Spence’s Point’s association with literature, were found to be uniquely significant but not contributive to a broad historic theme shared by the region. In addition, though many stories with the potential to be nationally important emerged, analysis revealed that these other stories do not possess the high-level national significance or a comprehensive inventory of resources maintaining a high level of integrity. Some of these preliminary thematic topics are also better represented by a much larger geographic context than the study area identified in the legislation, and others have a regional, rather than national, importance. The rationale for omitting these preliminary thematic topics is described below.

**Paleontology.** Fossils have been documented at Stratford Cliffs, located near the Lee family home Stratford Hall, since the 1820s when geologist John Finch noted that “every geologist who wishes to acquire a knowledge of the tertiary formations of the United States, should visit the cliffs at Stratford.” The Stratford Cliffs are part of the Chesapeake Group Formations that include specimens dating back 16 million years. More recently, paleontologists from the Smithsonian Institution and Virginian Museum of Martinsville have excavated specimens ranging from marine plants to large animals including whales and crocodiles from the cliffs lining both the Northern Neck, Virginia, and Maryland shores of the Potomac River.



The Chesapeake Group Formations extend across Virginia and into Maryland, following the prehistoric shoreline and lagoons filled with silt and sediments that preserved marine specimens for millions of years. While Stratford Cliffs features in situ fossils and Westmoreland State Park includes fossil hunting at Fossil Beach as one of its many recreational opportunities, the geologic formation responsible for Northern Neck's fossils extends far beyond the Northern Neck peninsula. This suggested theme is not distinctive to the Northern Neck and would be better represented by a larger geographic area; therefore, this potential theme was dropped from further analysis.

**Robert Carter as the First Emancipator.** After experiencing a religious conversion during his 50s, Robert Carter III, grandson of land baron Robert "King" Carter and nephew of political author Landon Carter, was responsible for the largest manumission of enslaved African Americans by a single individual before the Civil War. In the course of his lifetime, Carter freed 452 enslaved people held at his numerous Virginian plantations, including his home at Nomini Hall, through a gradual process starting in 1792. Nomini Hall, Robert Carter III's primary home, was destroyed by fire in 1850. A circa 1850s frame house occupied the same location until it too was destroyed in a 2014 fire. Because Robert Carter III's manumission is a single event with limited extant resources, this potential theme was dismissed from further analysis. However, the manumission story directly supports the broader theme of independence and early American politics in the Northern Neck. Resources in the study area related to the Carter Family, Robert Carter III, Nomini Hall, and the community of African Americans who were once enslaved by leading political families and later built their own identities and connections to the Northern Neck after emancipation are directly associated with these broader themes.

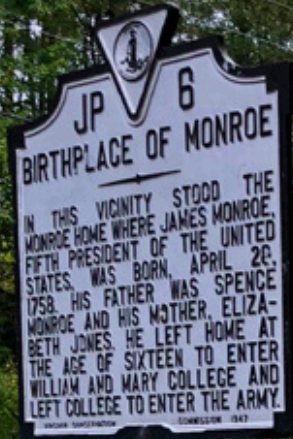
**Impacts of Military Activities on Social/Economic Change.** Located on the back of the Potomac River a short distance from Washington, DC, the Northern Neck was culturally and economically shaped by the nation's political history. It was a breeding ground for revolutionary thought during the 18th century and became the frontier between the Union and Confederate forces during the American Civil War, with residents supporting both sides during the conflict. Naval Support Facility Dahlgren was established as a gun testing site in the wake of World War I and continues to serve as a scientific center for all the armed forces and the largest employer in King George County. This potential theme represents political actions as an economic and social driver, a broad concept found throughout history. While resources found in the study area represent this theme, it is not a nationally significant story distinctive to the region. Therefore, this potential theme was dismissed from further analysis. Many of the resources at military sites support the broader identified theme of independence.

## **Conclusion**

The study team found numerous stories, places, and individuals associated with the Northern Neck and with local, state, and regional significance. Together they convey the natural and cultural history of the study area, a region that has long been defined by its waterways and ties to the land and sea and independent attitudes. These stories present an opportunity to explore and identify resources that are directly associated with the natural, cultural, and historic resources in the study area that help convey a distinct aspect of our national heritage. The significance of the study area, and the interpretive themes that describe this potential nationally important landscape are described in chapter 4.

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CHAPTER 4.  
SIGNIFICANCE AND  
RESOURCE ANALYSIS



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## CHAPTER 4: SIGNIFICANCE AND RESOURCE ANALYSIS

### SIGNIFICANCE

Significance statements express why a national heritage area is nationally important and in possession of exceptional values or qualities. They are concise, factual statements that are grounded in scholarly inquiry and consensus. Interpretive themes are the key stories that further elaborate on the most important ideas or concepts about the significance while communicating why these stories are important today. Interpretive themes help to explain why a story is relevant to people visiting a national heritage area, its significance, and resources that support the nationally important story. Significance and interpretive themes suggested during public outreach activities and discussed during the February 2010 interpretive theme workshop and 2018 scholars' roundtable were used as the foundation for the significant statement and themes presented below.

Based on the brief history and resource descriptions presented in chapter 2, the study team finds that the Northern Neck study area has the potential to support a nationally important story. That story is captured in the following significance statement:

*The dedication to the American ideal of freedom and the resulting self-reliance and self-identification seen by Northern Neckers over the course of centuries, as well as a persistence of place, results in a representative Chesapeake landscape that encapsulates the joys and struggles for freedom, primary aspects of the American experience.*

The Northern Neck of Virginia study area, including a narrow peninsula that extends 70 miles into the Chesapeake Bay and measures only 20 miles at its widest point, helped shape ideals that are now recognized as distinctively American, and their influence continues within the United States' political system. The five counties known as the Northern Neck were home to American Indian tribes, early American Presidents and signers of the Declaration of Independence, African Americans, farmers, fishermen, and conservationists. Each of these groups were influenced by and helped create the distinct Northern Neck culture birthed from the connections and isolation experienced on the peninsula.

Attributes of the Northern Neck that support the area's significance include:

- Situated between the Potomac River, Rappahannock River, and the Chesapeake Bay, the Northern Neck's geography has influenced and defined the lifeways, culture, and events of the peninsula over the course of American history.
- The Northern Neck's largely undeveloped setting, built environment, and archeological resources convey a representative Chesapeake landscape and offer tangible connections to centuries of life on the peninsula.
- While the Northern Neck is sometimes called the "birthplace of presidents" for its connections to George Washington, James Madison, and James Monroe, the attitude of independence and drive towards self-identification associated with the American Revolution extends well beyond the founding fathers and can be seen in the histories of the varied groups that have called the peninsula home.
- Local social institutions and organizations created opportunities for residents to embrace the attitude of independence associated with the Northern Neck.

Interpretive themes that illuminate the study area’s significance include:

- Historically, the Northern Neck has been a “place between” existing at a crossroad of groups, politics, ideas, and cultures. This unique setting allowed revolutionary thought and an attitude of independence to blossom.
- The largely undeveloped setting, historic architecture, and continued lifeways and practices related to agriculture and maritime industry on the Northern Neck convey a “persistence of place” that has come to define the area.
- Conservation efforts, as seen through the Virginia state parks, wildlife refuges, land trusts, easements and private landowner actions, preserved the overall rural setting now associated with the Northern Neck.
- Archeological resources associated with the Rappahannock tribe and African Americans tell the stories of groups that were traditionally excluded from American history narratives.

The significance statement and interpretive themes represent how the people, groups, and events associated with the Northern Neck have contributed to the broader national heritage. Together, the significance statement and themes presented in this study convey the importance of, and additional context related to, the Northern Neck’s nationally distinctive landscape and could provide the thematic framework to support a national heritage area.

## **RESOURCE ANALYSIS**

To determine whether there exists a strategic assemblage of resources that represent the nationally important story and its significance statement and interpretive themes, the study team conducted an extensive analysis of various qualities of the study area’s numerous resources. For purposes of this analysis, “strategic assemblage of resources” is defined as a concentration of resources that are: 1) directly associated with the significance statement and themes to enable an authentic experience of the national story, and 2) are fully documented, confirming each resource’s significance and current state of integrity.

The study team evaluated each resource identified through research, scoping, and subject-matter experts to determine whether this study area has a strategic assemblage of resources that meet these criteria.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The process of analyzing the resources involved preparing an inventory of a wide variety of historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources within the study area. The study team categorized each resource according to the following characteristics:

- The resource’s association with the significance statement and themes
- Documentation or historic designations (included in surveys, NRHP/NHL designations, etc.)
- Resource type (building, archeological site, trail, monument, museum collection, etc.)
- Accessibility (whether the public can visit the resource)
- A brief description of the resource
- A brief description of the visitor experience provided by the resource

Please refer to appendix B for an inventory of study area resources evaluated as part of this study.

The term “direct association” describes an essential element of a strategic assemblage of NHA resources because it describes whether a resource is directly connected to the significance statement and interpretive themes. Directly associated resources typically are the original places where historical events took place, or objects that are original artifacts from the period of historic significance. Direct association is important because it enables a visitor to fully understand and experience the historical importance of the early political figures first hand. The identification of directly associated resources is the first step in analyzing the inventory of study area resources.

Other resources that are not directly associated with the significance statement are supporting resources, such as interpretive sites, visitor centers, or museum exhibits that provide information and interpretation about the area’s significance, but are not the original places or objects themselves. These supporting resources may also help describe the larger context of the significance of the Northern Neck but were not directly involved in shaping history. Such resources play a role in telling the nationally important story to the public, but they do not contribute to the strategic assemblage because it must be composed of original resources with direct associations.

The study team analyzed the resource inventory to identify resources directly associated with the study’s significance and its interpretive themes and then considered documentation that conveyed the resources’ condition, association with the significance and themes, and integrity.

## **RESULTS OF ANALYSIS**

The study team reviewed and analyzed more than 100 natural, historic, cultural, and recreational resources in the study area collected from existing state and federal inventories, reconnaissance surveys conducted during site visits, and through public outreach events, all of which are either directly associated with or support and provide context for the study’s significance and interpretive themes. Resource types associated with the study area’s identified significance and examples of each resource type are listed below. Many identified resources and resource types can support more than one attribute of significance identified for the study area. For a complete list of inventories resources and their connections to the study area’s significance and themes, see appendix B.

**Historic districts.** The study area includes several National Register-listed historic districts that represent the development and evolution of communities throughout the Northern Neck. Together, the structures, geography, and archeological resources of these districts convey the cultural and economic connections to the surrounding landscape. Archeological resources within districts can provide information about social and economic networks, lifeways, and interactions with the immediate environment. Traditional building forms that represent plantation, fishing, and agricultural economic systems reflect how the people of the Northern Neck have lived and worked over the past four centuries. These districts illustrate the self-reliance and racial stratification of 17th-century plantations, the dependence of maritime villages on the surrounding bodies of water, and the agrarian focuses of inland villages. Individually listed historic districts are physical manifestations of the persistence of the traditions and culture of the Chesapeake and how existing communities continues to be influenced and shaped by the surrounding waterways.

Examples include:

- Village of Morattico Historic District (Lancaster County)
- Kinsale Historic District (Westmoreland County)
- Powhatan Rural Historic District (King George County)
- Westmoreland State Park Historic District (Westmoreland County)

**Archeological sites.** The undeveloped nature of the Northern Neck provides excellent opportunities for archeological study of Chesapeake landscapes and the people who have called the Northern Neck home. Prehistoric archeological resources provide information on how the study area's earliest inhabitants interacted with the surrounding environment and the physical connections created by the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, and Rappahannock River. Recent archeological field surveys informed by predictive modeling with GIS have confirmed tribal oral histories and provide new insight into lifeways and sites associated with the Rappahannock before John Smith's expedition. Historic archeology can also provide connections to the continuation of marine and agricultural traditions. While some of the buildings associated with early American political figures from the Northern Neck did not survive the test of time, many of the archeological resources found at the sites maintain integrity. Historic archeological sites offer opportunities for researchers and the public to better understand the social structure, lifeways, and relationships between people and the environment. For example, archeologists confirmed the site of the James Monroe family home in the 1970s and a reconstruction of the modest farm house where Monroe grew up is currently being built to support interpretation of the site. Archeological research has the potential to provide a window into the American Indian and African American experiences that may not be as clearly visible in the current built environment.

Examples include:

- Indian Banks (Richmond County)
- James Monroe Family Home Site (Westmoreland County)
- Nomini Hall (Westmoreland County)
- Rappahannock sites along the north bank of the Rappahannock River

**Historic sites.** Individual historic properties listed on the national register of historic places are found throughout the five-county study area, creating a broad vision of 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century life in the Northern Neck. Publically accessible historic sites commemorate the birthplaces of presidents, interpret the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and include houses of worship and large plantations. Historic sites convey the persistence of place and the representative Chesapeake landscape identified as significant to the Northern Neck, as well as provide tangible links to the individuals who shaped early American life and the continuing attitude of independence. While not all of the historic properties in the study area are currently open to the public or visible from thruways, the strong preservation ethos of the area and continued efforts of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources easement program ensure that many privately owned properties retain their integrity. Individual historic sites not currently open to the public could be incorporated into the interpretation or visitor experience of a potential heritage area in the future.



Examples include:

- George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Westmoreland County)
- Stratford Hall (Westmoreland County)
- Menokin (Richmond County)

**Churches.** Colonists living across the primarily rural landscape of Virginia were expected to come together once a week at their tax-supported local parish church to receive religious and political guidance from the Church of England. English churches provided colonists living in the relatively remote Northern Neck a connection to the mother country and crown. These gatherings helped connect the community and created a setting for early political and religious thought. Leading up to the American Revolution, churches also became a place where the struggle for religious freedom paralleled the political revolution and provided space for leading political minds to meet. Some churches in the study area, including St. Mary's White Chapel, Christ Church, and Yeocomico, have active congregations that regularly meet in buildings that date back to the early 18th century, providing a tangible link to colonial times and embodying the idea of persistence and preservation across the centuries.

African American congregations provided space for individuals leaving the bonds of slavery to begin their journey into fully realized American citizens during the 19th century. Black churches continued to be the backbone of the African American community into the 20th century, providing emotional and material support that allowed members to pursue social and economic independence, self-reliance, and create social institutions that bolstered the community and helped fight against limitations associated with Jim Crow policies. Churches in the study area provide another tangible resource connected to the pursuit of independence and Northern Neck culture.

Examples include:

- Current African American congregations across all five counties
- Yeocomico Church (Westmoreland County)
- Christ Church (Lancaster County)
- St. Mary's White Chapel (Lancaster County)

**Courthouses and courthouse greens.** Much like churches, courthouses became a meeting place for people and ideas in the early days of Colonial America and helped to shape the political and social lives of Northern Neck residents. In 18th- and 19th-century Virginia, the county courthouse was the center of professional life and was a primary site where business was conducted. Court days were an opportunity for early Virginians to come together, interact across social lines, and exchange goods and ideas. Serving as the community marketplace, forum, playground, and justice and administrative center, courthouses and connected greens were where the attitude of independence and the self-reliance that have become associated with the Northern Neck were defined.

Overall, the courthouses and greens in the study area retain their historic associations and appearances, which has become a rarity as urban and suburban sprawl reaches into once-rural parts of Virginia. The properties continue to reflect their roots in early American political life and provide a peek at what was once a typical Virginia setting. The continued use of the Northern Neck courthouses and greens as administrative centers and community meeting places for special events allows current residents and visitors another opportunity to experience the traditions of the study area.

Examples include:

- Lancaster Court House Historic District (Lancaster County)
- Richmond County Courthouse (Richmond County)
- Heathsville Historic District (Northumberland County)
- Westmoreland County Court House (Westmoreland County)

**Education-related properties.** Education provided the tools for African Americans to realize the dream of independence and move towards social and economic self-reliance. The earliest private African-American schools in Westmoreland County were established in the 1850s with the financial and material support of black church congregations and communities. The Northern Neck African American Education Trail, created in 2017, includes more than 70 sites associated with African American's quest to overcome segregation and poverty through formal education. While African American schools and the desire for education are not unique to the study area, education-related resources are tangible reminders of the struggles for independence that continued well past the American Revolution and Civil War.

Examples include:

- Armistead T. Johnson High School (Westmoreland County)
- Holley Graded School (Northumberland County)
- Howland Chapel School (Northumberland County)
- Ralph Bunche High School (King George County)

**Maritime resources.** The study area's maritime resources illustrate the cultural and economic connections to its surrounding waterways. These resources, which range from individual boats and privately owned wharfs to community-wide historic districts and modern processing plants, provide insight into how the Chesapeake Bay and rivers have created the connections and isolation associated with the study area and shaped the lives of those in Tidewater Virginia. Oystering and sustainable fishing dates back to the American Indian tribes who called the Northern Neck home and evolved into a way of life and main economic driver for coastal communities such as Reedville, Fleeton, White Stone, and Irvington. Ferries and steamboats provided connections to outside communities and economic opportunities for African American operators and owners in the 19th century, which allowed more individuals to pursue the ideals of independence that are connected to American values. Waterways and the maritime resources in the study area connect the natural resources of the area to the distinct culture, lifeways, and identity of current residents.

Examples include:

- Reedville Historic District (Northumberland County)
- Irvington Historic District (Lancaster County)
- Elva C. Deckboat (Northumberland County)
- Smith Point Light Station (Northumberland County)
- Active menhaden processing plant (Northumberland County)
- Wharfs and docks

**Conservation areas and parks.** The geography and natural surroundings of the Northern Neck have been tied to the economy, settlement, culture of the study area. Conservation and refuge areas help protect the representative Chesapeake landscape of rivers, forests, and farmland that are central to the Northern Neck identity and help preserve the unique sense of place and boost recreational tourism. Undeveloped areas connect visitors to the environment American Indians and colonists encountered and allows 21st-century residents a chance to experience the connection to nature, the sense of isolation, and the rural impression that has become part of the study area's distinct landscape.

Examples include:

- Westmoreland State Park (Westmoreland County)
- Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve (Northumberland County)
- Lands End Wildlife Management Area (King George County)
- Westmoreland Berry Farm/Voorhees Nature Preserve (Westmoreland County)
- Private lands held in conservation easements by Northern Neck Land Conservancy

The study area also includes supporting resources, such as museum collections, archives, and organizations with interpretive and educational programs that convey the themes associated with the potential national heritage area. Roadside markers and interpretive signage near sites provide additional information about past events that shaped the Northern Neck's history and resources that are no longer extant or publically accessible. These educational resources support the interpretation of the study area's history and provide additional context related to the identified themes that could support any future activities or growth of a potential national heritage area. (See appendix B for a partial list of study area resources evaluated for the feasibility study and the related themes).

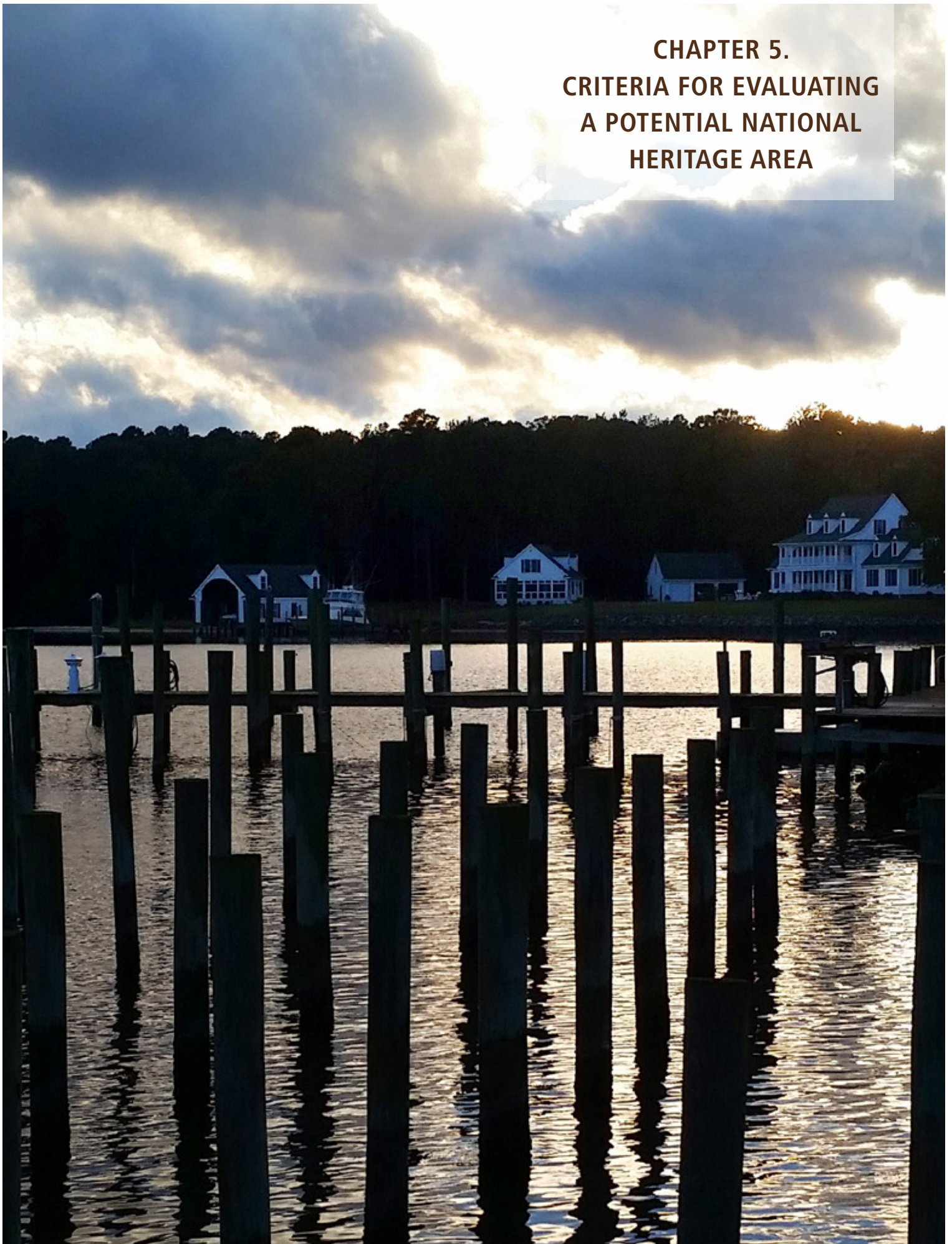
Given the number of resources that meet NHA criteria for direct association and integrity, the study team finds that there are enough natural, cultural, and historic resources to form a nationally significant landscape and to support the efficient management of such resources as a national heritage area.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study area has diverse resources associated with the seven identified themes associated with the Northern Neck that have a direct association with the identified nationally significant story and adequate physical integrity to support public interpretation. Additional supporting resources that also represent the distinctive aspects of the Northern Neck, such as museums and existing organizations, provide historic and natural context, contribute to visitor opportunities, and reflect the ecological and cultural landscape of the study area. Overall, the study team believes that this resources inventory meets the threshold for a "strategic assemblage of resources" needed to be eligible for NHA designation.

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**CHAPTER 5.  
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING  
A POTENTIAL NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA**



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## CHAPTER 5: CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A POTENTIAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

In the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the National Park Service lists ten criteria to be used in the evaluation of potential candidates for national heritage area designation. These criteria have been used to inform congressional authorizing committees regarding legislation that would ultimately designate a national heritage area. For the purposes of this feasibility study, the criteria are the evaluation standards to which a study area should be held when determining whether or not the study area should be presented by the Secretary of the Interior to Congress as a potential national heritage area. Eligible study areas are expected to meet all ten criteria to be considered for national heritage area designation. The legislation directing this study—P.L. 111-11, Sec. 8102. Northern Neck, Virginia (2009)—also included 13 requirements (Criterion A-M) specific to the feasibility study. These criteria closely align with the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. Both the legislation and NPS criteria are evaluated and documented in the pertinent sections.

### CRITERION 1

*The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities and by contributing diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criteria A-C.

Northern Neck's natural, historic, and cultural resources convey the study area's connection to the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and how these bodies of water, along with the Chesapeake Bay, have shaped the history, economy, lifeways, and traditions of the peninsula. Many of these resources are owned and actively managed by state or federal agencies for public enjoyment. The resource inventory highlights the wide range of historic, cultural, and natural resources in the study area connected to the Northern Neck's geography and history. Together, these resources create a distinctive landscape that conveys the study area's representation of independence, self-reliance, and a persistence of place and landscape across the centuries. These natural, cultural, and historic resources represent an assemblage that could form a viable national heritage area that could support efficient management of the sites. **Therefore, criterion 1 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and legislation criteria A-C are met.**

### CRITERION 2

*The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion D and criterion G.

Local customs and traditions help preserve the unique regional character normally associated with national heritage areas. Aspects of an area's folklife and associated practices offer a sense of continuity by directly connecting visitors and locals alike to the landscape and showcase the living relationship between the resources of a national heritage area and its people. Farming and maritime practices, commemorations, and organizations that actively preserve and share aspects of Northern Neck culture connect the study area to the larger national story of independence and continuation of Chesapeake traditions.

The connection to water continues to define the Northern Neck experience, as it has for centuries. Maritime industry was responsible for late 19th- and 20th-century development of the coastal communities within the study area, and private docks and wharfs dot the shores and inlets surrounding the peninsula. The menhaden industry has drastically declined in the past few decades, but Reedville is still home to aerial fishspotting crews that locate large menhaden schools from the air, fishing boats, and an active fish processing plant. Oysters, crab, and saltfish are popular local menu items and oyster roasts are still common community events. The continuing practices and associated maritime culture is apparent when visiting sites included on the Virginia Oyster Trail or Waterman Heritage Trail. Sites included in the heritage tourism trails offer opportunities for visitors to take locally chartered fishing boats and witness traditional techniques first-hand. Agricultural traditions are strong in the study area as well. The rural landscape within the study area is still defined by farming and provides a visual connection to centuries of history and living on the Northern Neck. Small-scale farms that have passed through families for generations continue to be locally owned and operated and represent the monocrop culture that has been in use for centuries. Local products are available at seasonal farmers' markets, roadside fruit stands, and area restaurants.

The Rappahannock Tribe continues to practice and celebrate its culture through the revival of the Rappahannock language, use of traditional clay sources, and annual Harvest Festival and Powwow that showcases the talents of traditional dancers and drum group. While the tribe currently owns land only on the Middle Peninsula, the Rappahannock have been culturally connected to both shores of the river that shares their name. Further development of the tribe's Return to the River youth cultural and conservation program will continue to foster connections between members and resources on both banks of the Rappahannock River.

African American culture is a crucial and sometimes overlooked aspect of the Northern Neck that is being preserved through the efforts of local organizations. Westmoreland Weavers of the Word is a storytelling group that focuses on local African American history and customs. The Northern Neck Shanty Singers, recognized by the Virginia Folklife Program, keeps the tradition of African American work songs alive through its performances around the country. The shanties harken back to early-20th-century menhaden fishing when predominantly African American crews sang call-and-response songs as they hauled nets into the fishing boats. African American congregations throughout the Northern Neck tell the stories of successes in the black community, provide community meeting spaces, and host events that celebrate the ongoing connections to the land, the past, and hard-fought freedoms associated with developing homes in the study area.

The Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society (NNVHS) organizes annual commemorations of local events that changed the course of American history. The Leedstown Resolves commemorative event, which is hosted by a different historic site each February, remembers the 1766 political gathering in Leedstown that provided support to Richard Henry Lee in protesting the Stamp Act. The Leedstown Resolves is considered a seminal event of what became the American Revolution.



The event features guest speakers, living history interpreters, and drum and fife companies. An annual Deed of Gift commemoration honoring Robert Carter III's manumission of enslaved individuals in 1791 recognizes the historic moment and African American's contributions to everyday life and culture in America. An Independence Day Celebration is held at Burnt House Field, the location of the Lee Family Machotick House—that burned to the ground in 1729—and the Lee Family burial ground. Commemorations help directly connect events from early American history to the present and highlight their national importance and lasting legacies.

Other programming and special events related to the history, traditions, and foodways of the Northern Neck are common among historic sites, educational organizations, and museums found in the study area. In recent years, the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library has organized a weekend-long Historic Lancaster Court Days festival to promote colonial history.<sup>5</sup> Community agricultural markets and maritime festivals celebrate the continued land use related to farming and traditional links to the area's waterways and fishing.

The traditions, folkways, and lifeways of the Northern Neck represent a distinct aspect of Chesapeake culture. Together, they embody the persistence of place and continuity of traditional practices that makes the study area a unique example of enduring Chesapeake landscapes and lifeways. (See appendix C for examples of Northern Neck culture and lifeways evaluated for the feasibility study and the related attributes of significance). Because of the distinct customs, traditions, and folklife associated with the Northern Neck, **criterion 2 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion D and G of the legislation have been met.**

### **CRITERION 3**

*The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion E.

National heritage areas are a vehicle for locally initiated protection and interpretation of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. To meet criterion 3 of the NHA guideline, a study area must have potential to increase the level and quality of publicly accessible open space, recreation, and/or heritage education resources.

### **Conservation of Natural Resources and Scenic Features**

Federal and state partners currently manage numerous parks and preserves with the intent of conserving the area's natural resources. The Northern Neck is home to the US Fish and Wildlife's Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Lands End Wildlife Management Area, three state natural area preserves, and four state parks. Regional NPS conservation efforts are coordinated by the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office, the management entity for the area's three national trails and stewardship coordination.

The study area has several active land conservation groups that work together to preserve the area's natural resources and rural setting. The Northern Neck Land Conservancy, officially incorporated in 2004 is the result of a grassroots effort to help Northern Neck grow gracefully while protecting

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5. Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library Newsletter, March 2017, <https://mbw.app.box.com/v/March2017Newsletter>.

water quality, farmland and forestland, and scenic vistas. The small, Lancaster-based nonprofit works with interested landowners to develop conservation easements that preserve the current uses of property, such as timbering, farming, or open space, while limiting future development. The organization also sponsors educational outreach and fundraising events to support their mission of conserving open space, protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, preserving the area's historical sites and rural heritage, encouraging responsible stewardship of the area's natural beauty. Since its incorporation, the conservancy has helped preserve over 15,000 acres of land and 13 miles of waterfront through conservation easements co-held by the nonprofit and counties of the Northern Neck peninsula.<sup>6</sup> The Land Trust of Virginia, a statewide conservation nonprofit established in 1994, also works to help promote land stewardship through conservation easements individually negotiated with private landowners. Currently the organization holds easements on 318 acres in King George County.<sup>7</sup> Other conservation groups including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Scenic Virginia, Inc., Virginia Conservation Network, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Virginia Environmental Endowment, the Conservation Fund, and the Trust for Public Land provide additional support to local Northern Neck conservation groups and stewardship efforts.<sup>8</sup>

The Nature Conservancy co-holds a conservation easement on more than 32 miles of Rappahannock riverfront with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This land, which includes more than 4,200 acres across five counties, was given to the City of Fredericksburg in 1969 to protect the city's water supply. Under the conservation easement, this portion of the river will continue to be protected from development and urban encroachment while being allowed to serve as important spawning grounds for migratory fish that travel from the Chesapeake Bay watershed as far inland as the Blue Ridge Mountains. Working with funding provided by the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, a funding source co-administered by the Nature Conservancy and the US Army Corps of Engineers, the conservancy was able to establish an endowment for a full-time river steward who will promote water quality and watershed health.

The nonprofit owns and manages the Vorhees Nature Preserve, a 729-acre area adjacent to Westmoreland Berry Farm, a popular Northern Neck agricultural tourism attraction, and the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Together, these lands support the conservancy's Chesapeake Rivers Program, a broader stewardship initiative that covers the Rappahannock, Mattaponi, and Pamunkey Rivers, Cat Point Creek, and Dragon Run. The Vorhees Nature Preserve was created in 1994 from land donated to the Nature Conservancy and helps connect conservation land along the Rappahannock River. The preserve includes 4 miles of wooded trails with overlook spots that allow visitors opportunities for eagle watching and scenic views of the Rappahannock.<sup>9</sup>

Friends of the Rappahannock is a nonprofit conservation organization with the goal of maintaining the water quality, living resources, and scenic beauty of the Rappahannock River and its tributaries. The organization, which has offices in Fredericksburg and Tappahannock, Virginia, supports

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6. Northern Neck Land Conservancy, March 2017, <http://nnconserve.org/>.

7. Land Trust of Virginia, "Our Work – Easements," 2016, March 2017, <http://landtrustva.org/our-work/easements/>.

8. Northern Neck Land Conservancy, "Links," March 2017, March 2017, <http://nnconserve.org/links>.

9. The Nature Conservancy, Virginia-Rappahannock River Lands," 2017, March 2017, <https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/virginia/placesweprotect/rappahannock-river-lands.xml>; the Nature Conservancy, "Virginia-Vorhees Nature Preserve," 2017, March 2017, <https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/virginia/placesweprotect/voorhees-nature-preserve.xml>.

advocacy, restoration, and education efforts along the river. Recent activities in the study area include a kayak crawl, a tour of the historic wharves of Tappahannock, and river cleanups.<sup>10</sup>

These natural resources provide the natural setting and geography that define the Northern Neck peninsula. As evident by the numerous organizations working to provide natural resource stewardship in the form of state parks, state and federal wildlife preserves, land conservancies, and conservation easements on privately owned land, there is already a network of conservation partners helping to preserve the study area's natural resources. National heritage area designation would provide additional opportunities for the study area's conservation groups to partner with area NPS programs and work together on watershed and natural resource conservation projects.

## **Conservation and Preservation of Cultural and Historic Features**

Resources directly associated with the study area's nationally important story are owned and managed by a mixture of government, nonprofit, and private owners. George Washington Birthplace National Monument is owned by the National Park Service and open to the public as a park unit. The National Park Service must manage the property according to NPS Management Policies and federal regulations associated with the protection and preservation of park resources. The nonprofits operating the James Monroe Birthplace Park and Museum, Stratford Hall, Menokin, and Christ Church share the mission of protecting Northern Neck's colonial-era buildings and providing visitor opportunities related to the history of the region.

Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society was created in 1951 to "preserve the history and traditions of 'the Athens' of America," cradle of our nation's democracy."<sup>11</sup> While the group's motto describes the nationally significant story of early American politics, the group works to collect and preserve information about the broader era of history, antiquities, and literature of the counties included in the study area as well as neighboring Stafford County. This is done through biannual membership meetings, an annual organization magazine that includes academic articles on history topics, and a research library located in the group's Montross headquarters. The group also supports the Robert O. Norris Scholarship, given annually to two Northern Neck high school seniors, and the John Paul Hanbury Award that recognizes the preservation and restoration of residential properties on Northern Neck.

The NPS Chesapeake Bay Office oversees the three national trails that travel through the study area. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail was designated in 2006 to commemorate the explorer's voyages between 1607 and 1609, share knowledge about the American Indian tribes that lived along the Chesapeake during the 17th century, and to interpret the natural history of the bay. The trail extends approximately 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and is the first water-based national historic trail in the NPS national trail system. The trail was created to support heritage tourism in coastal Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia by providing new opportunities for education and recreation based on the Chesapeake's natural and cultural resources. John Smith's voyages act as the unifying theme and historic route connecting the natural and traditional Chesapeake Bay resources with modern settlement, economics, and restoration efforts. While not directly associated with Smith's 17th-century travels, many Northern Neck resources—local museums, Virginia state parks, and George Washington

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10. Friends of the Rappahannock, March 2017, March 2017, <http://riverfriends.org/>.

11. Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, "NNVHS Home," March 2017, <http://www.nnvhs.org/>.

Birthplace National Monument—are included on the national water trail website as associated places to visit while exploring the trail and the broader Tidewater region.<sup>12</sup>

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail is a 560-mile land and water route that runs through Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Established in 2008, the national historic trail connects a variety of resources to tell the story of the Chesapeake Region’s distinct landscapes and waterways in the context of the War of 1812. The trail highlight’s Historic Christ Church and Nomini Church as War of 1812 resources and promotes Northern Neck museums that interpret British troop movement across the peninsula and the war’s impacts on the region. Christ Church is directly associated with the story of national significance identified for the potential Northern Neck National Heritage Area. The original Nomini Church that dated to the colonial period was burned by British troops during the War of 1812, but the circa-1850 church is included as a historic resource related to the war. While the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail expands beyond the Northern Neck, the trail supports heritage tourism efforts and illustrates the peninsula’s historic, economic, and cultural connections to Baltimore and Washington, DC.<sup>13</sup>

## Conclusion

The study team found a high level of conservation and preservation activity already existing for natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources within the study area from a variety of federal, state, local, and nonprofit partners. There appears to be an adequate level of coordination and management in place to support conservation values and resource stewardship, including two national historic trails and a national scenic trail that highlight the history and natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and Tidewater Virginia. A potential Northern Neck National Heritage Area could support these groups through additional coordination of stewardship activities, and through subgranted support of future historical and archeological research, additional and updated National Register of Historic Places nominations, and expanded opportunities for common interpretation of the region’s historic themes. **Therefore, criterion 3 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion E of the legislation are met.**

## CRITERION 4

*The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion F.

## Recreational Opportunities

The Northern Neck includes numerous recreational opportunities at various public boat launches, fishing lakes, state parks, and federal lands located in the study area. National and regional trail programs run throughout the peninsula and offer visitors ample opportunities to experience natural and scenic resources associated with Tidewater Virginia.

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12. National Park Service, “Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail,” 2017, March 2017, <http://smithtrail.net/about-the-trail/>.

13. Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, “Chesapeake at War - Bay Regions at War: Tidewater Virginia Region,” 2017, March 2017, <http://starspangledtrail.net/chesapeake-at-war/bay-regions/virginia/>.

The Northern Neck Loop of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail leads visitors through the peninsula to parks and natural areas with one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles on the Eastern seaboard. Songbirds, waterfowl, wading birds, and butterflies are also common to the area. The network of trails that create the Northern Neck loop are managed by state parks, county governments, municipalities, and the Northern Neck Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail are part of the National Trails System, a program operated by the National Park Service to provide recreational opportunities and promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources. These trails were established by the Secretary of the Interior to connect related historic and natural resources, receive financial and technical assistance from the National Park Service, and to help coordinate resources from federal transportation funds and local partners. The Northern Neck Heritage Trail Bicycling Route Network, a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, connects visitors to a variety of recreational opportunities on the Northern Neck including hiking, biking, paddling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.<sup>14</sup>

There are existing efforts to increase public access to the study area's numerous natural and water resources. The Northern Neck-Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority was created by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2005 as an official regional entity in charge of identifying land either held privately or by the Commonwealth of Virginia that could be used as public access sites for natural recreational opportunities. Eligible lands could include open fields, parks, boat launches, and facilities that support fishing, birding, and hiking, among other activities. The Northern Neck-Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority holds authority to buy and sell land to fulfill the group's mission, increase usefulness of existing access sites, seek public input on new sites, and develop new public-access sites. The authority has created an inventory of existing public access sites in the region, helped fund improvements at the Bonum Creek Boat Landing in Westmoreland County, partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers to create a Northern Neck Regional Shallow Draft Navigation and Sediment Management Plan, and helped county governments complete successful grant applications for Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Grants.<sup>15</sup>

## Educational Opportunities

Multiple historic resources that contribute to the identified nationally significant landscape are open to the public and operated as historic sites by either the National Park Service or nonprofits. George Washington Birthplace National Historic Site, James Monroe Birthplace Park and Museum, Stratford Hall, Menokin, and Christ Church provide onsite interpretive and educational programs about a variety of topics, including the natural history of the Northern Neck, life during colonial times, and the broader historic landscape—themes that directly connect to the study area's national significance. The historic buildings, landscapes, and archeological resources can reveal information about wealthy plantation owners and the enslaved individuals living on 18th-century Northern Neck plantations that can be conveyed to visitors by historic site staff and volunteers through school

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14. National Park Service, "Potomac Heritage National Historic Trail- Maps," 2017, March 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/maps.htm>.

15. "Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority Receives Donation," *MiddleNeckNews.com*, May 12, 2015, March 2017, <http://middlenecknews.com/local-news/northern-neck-chesapeake-bay-public-access-authority-receives-donation/>; Northern Neck Planning District Commission, "Public Access Authority," March 2017, <http://northernneck.us/public-access-authority>.

programs and formal tours. The historic sites' websites also offer educational resources for teachers hoping to incorporate local history into classroom curriculum.

The sites directly associated with the study area's nationally significant stories also offer general educational opportunities that provide context about life on the Northern Neck and the enduring connection between Northern Neck's geography, landscape, and culture. Menokin has expanded its educational programming and interpretation to address "story of the house," "story of the people," which include American Indian tribes and those enslaved on the Northern Neck plantation, and "story of the land," which covers natural resources associated with the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. The site's public history and preservation programs include an oral history program, hardhat tours of the site during the Menokin Glass House construction/stabilization effort, and information on historic archeology at the site extend beyond the study area's identified nationally significant theme to address relevant modern topics related to the Northern Neck. Stratford Hall and Menokin often host events as part of larger series (speakers, special events) organized by local museums, preservation groups, and researchers to share new research with the public. The Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River Initiative focuses on reconnecting youth to ancestral traditions through environmental advocacy and water-related activities including fishing and canoeing. Additional youth education experiences could be developed by individual Northern Neck organizations or historic sites with the help of the future NHA coordinating entity that help convey the area's national importance and unique blend of natural, historic, and cultural resources. Rappahannock Community College has a campus in Warsaw and additional support sites in Kilmarnock and King George. These centers offer undergraduate courses in a variety of programs as well as community spaces for lectures and programming and collaboration with travelling natural and cultural resource experts.

The lack of public access provided at the privately owned resources limits these sites' ability to support and contribute to overall education or recreation activities in the study area. However, these sites retain historic integrity and could be included in wider education efforts related to colonial landscapes and historic archeology related to plantation life. Associated resources found in the study area could also support potential national heritage area educational efforts and heritage tourism campaigns.

## **Conclusion**

General recreational opportunities are well represented by existing local heritage tourism efforts and the NPS national trails system. Historic resources with direct connections to the nationally significant story of early American political leaders are broadly represented in the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Northern Neck Heritage Trail segment of the Potomac Heritage National Historic Trail and individual sites offer educational and interpretive programs. National heritage area designation would provide additional opportunities for broad educational and recreational opportunities across the Northern Neck and could help coordinate additional educational efforts connected to the area's American Revolution-era history. **Therefore, criterion 4 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion F of the legislation are met.**

## **CRITERION 5**

*Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion loosely aligns with legislation criterion A.

Resource types directly associated with the distinct nature of the study area and the identified attributes of significance are described in chapter 3. All natural, historic, and cultural resources mentioned in chapter 3 and listed in the resource inventory included in appendix B retain a degree of integrity that conveys their connections to the potential national heritage area and could support interpretation related to the area's significance. Many of the publically owned resources in the study area already offer visitor opportunities that directly link to the area's significance. Additional privately owned historic sites that have been preserved through owner actions or easements also retain integrity and are capable of supporting interpretation or visitor experiences in the future. **Therefore, NHA criterion 5 is met.**

## **CRITERION 6**

*Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area involved in planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion K.

In requesting the study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as the Northern Neck National Heritage Area, Congress required that the proposed local coordinating entity developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants including the Federal Government in the management of the proposed Heritage Area. As the proposed coordinating entity, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission developed the following five-year conceptual financial plan (see table 5) based on conceptual expenses (see table 6) and current economic conditions.

With almost a decade of experience managing the Northern Neck as a local heritage area, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission has an established network of partners that allows for diverse fundraising opportunities. The coordinating entity seeks to match anticipated NPS funds for the development of a management plan with funds raised from a combination of state government funding, grants, memberships, and earned income sources in addition to volunteer and in-kind contributions. Reflecting recent historical trends for annual NHA funding, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission estimates National Heritage Area funding of \$150,000 for years 1 through 3 until the heritage area management plan is approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and \$300,000 for years 4 and 5 for management plan implementation (see table 5).

Because the Northern Neck Tourism Commission operates under the auspices of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, it receives funding through appropriations from the state of Virginia (see criterion 10 for a description of the relationship of the Northern Neck Tourism

**Table 5. Conceptual Financial Plan from Proposed Coordinating Entity**

Funding Source	Anticipated Amount				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
—					
National Heritage Area Funding	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
County Memberships	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500
Business and Individual Memberships	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$15,000
Virginia Tourism Corporation Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Northern Neck Planning District Commission	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Earned Income	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Grants Distributed Match	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Value of In-Kind/Volunteer Time (non-cash)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$302,000</b>	<b>\$302,000</b>	<b>\$302,000</b>	<b>\$602,500</b>	<b>\$602,500</b>

Commission with the Northern Neck Planning District Commission). The Northern Neck Tourism Commission has an established membership program in place with roughly 60 members including the counties, towns, wineries, historic sites, museums, state parks, the national refuge, and small businesses. These memberships illustrate the local grassroots support for the Northern Neck Tourism Commission and its work, and highlight a regional commitment to the financial success of the proposed coordinating entity. Furthermore, the membership programs are funding mechanisms already in place with potential for future growth.

Under administration and operations, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission estimates dedicating \$75,000 of the overall annual funding in years 1 through 3 for the development of the national heritage area management plan. The Northern Neck Tourism Commission assumes it will employ the equivalent of one full-time staff position (partially funded through the Northern Neck Planning District Commission) for years 1 through 3 and adding a quarter-time staff for years 4 through 5. Starting in year 4, a full-time staff member fully funded through the Northern Neck Tourism Commission would be in place to assume financial and administrative responsibility of heritage area funds and projects. In addition to management plan expenses and personnel, administration and operations expenses include the cost of utilities, office space rental cost and office equipment and supplies.

Resource development and interpretation would include the issuance of subgrants for organizations that have projects that support the proposed Northern Neck Heritage Area mission and themes. In years 1 through 3, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission estimates subgranting \$75,000 to local organizations and increasing subgrant funding to \$200,000 in years 4 and 5. The Northern Neck Tourism Commission envisions expanding opportunities to receive funding from state, corporate, foundation and local sources for heritage interpretation and promotion by offering technical assistance and match funding, which could contribute to activities and promotion of the potential Northern Neck National Heritage Area. Resource development and interpretation also includes the cost for the development and installment of signage.



**Table 6. Conceptual Expenses from Proposed Coordinating Entity**

Expense	Anticipated Amount				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
—					
Administration and Operations	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Salaries	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Office Space	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Office Equipment and Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Office Operations	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Management Plan	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -
Resource Development and Interpretation	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$430,000	\$430,000
Signage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Grants Distributed	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Grants Distributed Match	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Marketing or Visitor Services	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Print Media	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Electronic Media	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Community Engagement and Outreach	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Interpretive Trainings	—	—	—	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Scholarly Conferences	—	—	—	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$302,000</b>	<b>\$302,000</b>	<b>\$302,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

Marketing expenses include the cost of development and dissemination of marketing materials. Community engagement and outreach includes the cost of developing and executing interpretive trainings for community members, local businesses, guides, and local organizations to promote awareness and foster interest in and stewardship of the Northern Neck cultural and natural heritage resources. Starting in year 4, a Northern Neck Tourism Commission annual scholarly conference and interpretive trainings would be organized to further inform the protection and interpretation of the Northern Neck.

Outlined by the supporting information described above and based on the comments received from residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments during the public scoping period (see appendixes C and D), the study team concludes that criterion 6 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion K of the legislation are met.

## CRITERION 7

The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

This NPS National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines criterion aligns with legislation criterion J.

Community support for the Northern Neck Tourism Commission is a testament to their many years in successfully leading collaborative efforts throughout the five-county study area. Under the umbrella of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission is comprised of fifteen-member commission, appointed by the boards of supervisors of the five counties of the Northern Neck, with more than 60 partners, including the counties, towns, wineries, historical societies, museums, state parks, small businesses and the NPS unit operating in the region. In addition to local entities, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission counts among its contributors regional historic and heritage organizations, including the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society and the Northern Neck Farm Museum. To guide the efforts of promoting increased economic impact through regional tourism development, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission— with the support of the five member counties—included in the study area developed the Northern Neck Tourism Plan (2013) and updated its goals in 2017.

Throughout the study process, there has been an overwhelming amount of support expressed by governments and institutions as well as the public in the designation of the Northern Neck as a national heritage area. All counties included in the study area have adopted resolutions supporting the creation of a Northern Neck National Heritage Area and identifying the NNTC/NNPDC as an appropriate local coordinating entity (appendix E). Additionally, all the NPS entities in the study area: Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Captain John Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and George Washington Birthplace National Monument have expressed a willingness to work in partnership with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission to enhance public access, conserve important landscapes and resources, and connect visitors and residents to the Northern Neck’s cultural and natural heritage. The study team received formal letters of support from the following organizations and government bodies:

- Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Preservation Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula Incorporated
- Chesapeake Environmental Communications
- Virginia Waterman’s Association
- Northern Neck Land Conservancy
- King George County, Virginia
- Richmond County, Virginia
- Westmoreland County, Virginia
- Northumberland County, Virginia
- Lancaster County, Virginia

See appendix D for an assemblage of letters of support for and commitment to assist with the establishment of the proposed national heritage area. Based on the NNTC history of successful partnerships, their willingness to seek out new partners and their level of engagement in the feasibility study, **the study team concludes that criterion 7 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criteria H and J of the legislation are met.**

## CRITERION 8

*The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion L.

Over two decades ago, the counties of the Northern Neck formed a nonprofit organization to sustain local communities through revitalization and tourism. Community and public interest in tourism as a vehicle for economic diversification and regional economic development resulted in the formation of the Northern Neck Tourism Commission in 2009. Despite its close proximity to the major urban centers of Richmond, Norfolk, and Northern Virginia, the Northern Neck is predominately rural and the historic agrarian and water-based industries remain important economic drivers for the region. Over the last decade, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission has stimulated asset-based community development with the goal of fostering place-based, sustainable economic growth across several sectors of the Northern Neck economy.

*The 2018 Northern Neck Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*, produced by Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission and submitted to the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, notes that "in recent years, the Northern Neck has emerged as a popular vacation and retirement destination, in part because of its natural beauty and accessibility to larger metropolitan regions." As part of the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat analysis conducted with a cross section of government, industry and community leaders, the region's beauty and natural resources were identified as both the greatest strength and its greatest opportunity. Tourism was deemed by that group as a natural driver for the regional economy. Goal 3 of the plan aims to support existing businesses while building opportunities for new businesses in the region, including through the development of a tourism initiative with watermen and marinas. Goal 4 aims to promote and protect the defining assets of the Northern Neck, which includes deploying a branding and marketing effort for the region as well as developing additional public water-access points. Finally, goal 5 aims to make the region a resilient community by diversifying the Northern Neck economy.

The *2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan* highlights 5-year recommendations for agencies, organizations and individuals that support outdoor recreation and land conservation. Featured projects for the Northern Neck region include providing new bayside and river public access and shoreline improvements, constructing water trail facilities, and implementing a living shoreline with associated improved public access among other projects. These resource conservation projects and visitor improvements would promote outdoor recreation and strengthen local economies through increased tourism, goals that are in alignment with the purpose of national heritage areas.

The most recent *Virginia State Tourism Plan* (2013) identifies a vision for the state's tourism industry and establishes a set of desired outcomes, objectives, and strategies for both the public and private sectors to achieve that vision. Objective 3 of the plan is to enhance the history and heritage experience. Strategy 2 under this objective is to explore designations for national heritage areas to "aid in preservation efforts for historical, cultural, and natural assets and promotion of history and heritage experiences." The designation of the Northern Neck as a national heritage area is listed in the statewide plan as high priority for the state.

Working with entities such as Preservation Virginia, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Northern Neck Land Conservancy, and the National Park Service, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission has conducted numerous programs consistent with economic activities in the area. Key programs that support regional tourism driven economic activities in the study area include:

- annually distributing thousands of brochures throughout the region promoting the Northern Neck,
- maintaining a website that is a crucial resource for visitors and residents alike who desire to explore the region,
- maintaining a weekly calendar of events in the Northern Neck that is used by dozens of local businesses, nonprofit organizations, government entities, and individuals throughout the region,
- serving as a conduit and partner in implementing and promoting countless tourism-related projects and events, and
- working to make historic sites more accessible and known to the public.

Based on the information outlined above, the designation of the Northern Neck as a national heritage area would promote tourism and benefit the local communities and economy as a result of greater visibility from the national recognition as well as improved coordination among heritage and tourism organizations. **This would be consistent with continued economic activities in the study area thereby meeting criterion 8 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criteria H and L of the legislation.**

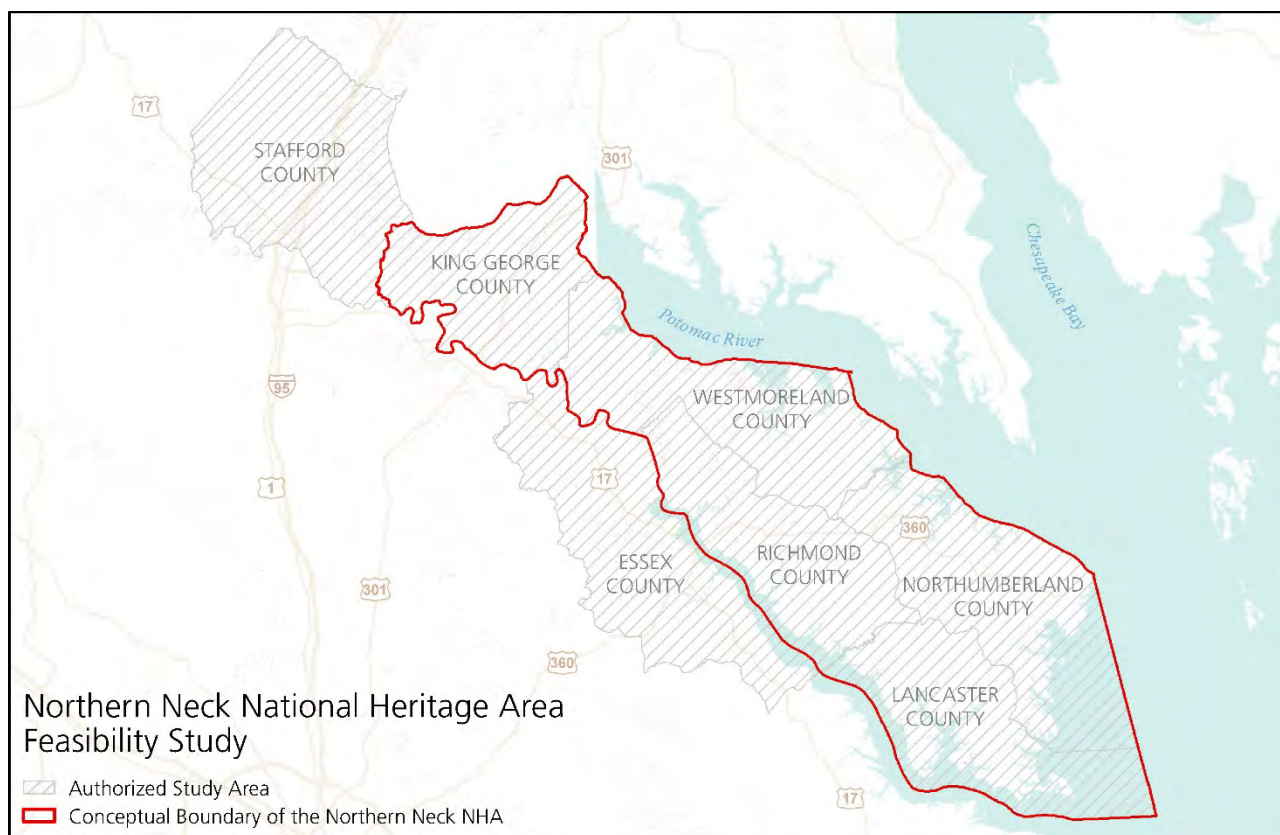
## **CRITERION 9**

*A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion M.

The boundary of the proposed Northern Neck National Heritage Area is roughly the same as that recognized in the earliest Colonial records and is consistent with the accepted cultural geography of Virginia today as a distinct region (figure 15). The Fairfax land grant of 1649, later known as the Northern Neck Proprietary, included the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers to the spring, or land that is modern-day West Virginia (about 5.2 million acres). The proposed boundary coincides with the political boundaries of King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster Counties—the five-county study area identified in PL 111-11. Within these counties, the distribution of National Historic Landmarks, properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, preserved natural areas open to the public, museum and educational experiences, and established historic, recreational and scenic trails are evenly distributed throughout the peninsula.

The five counties that make up the study area are served by the Northern Neck Tourism Commission. When the Northern Neck National Heritage Area feasibility study legislation was passed in 2009, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission represented the lower four counties of the Northern Neck peninsula, a reflection of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, a Commonwealth entity. During the internal and public scoping processes, it became evident that the Northern Neck is culturally and thematically defined by the five counties of the peninsula, including



**FIGURE 15. CONCEPTUAL BOUNDARY OF THE NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

the northernmost King George County. In 2012, following numerous meetings and discussions, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission and King George County agreed to collaborate on heritage tourism efforts for their mutual benefit. The Northern Neck Tourism Commission was expanded to include the five counties of the peninsula known as the Northern Neck.

The study legislation authorized the study team to also evaluate the areas adjacent to the five-county area when related geographically or thematically. The study team evaluated the lands and resources adjacent to the Northern Neck including Virginia’s Middle Peninsula to the south and Stafford County to the west. While these areas are related thematically to the broad history of the Northern Neck, it was clear that the five counties of the Northern Neck formed a distinct and cohesive whole. It is possible and highly probable that in the future, fruitful relationships can be developed between the proposed Northern Neck National Heritage Area and the resources, stories, and events in the adjacent areas and beyond.

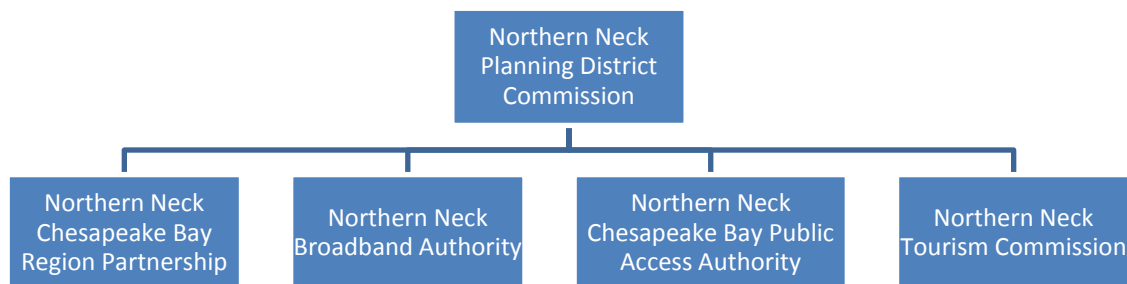
The five counties of King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster Counties were identified in the legislation authorizing the Northern Neck National Heritage Area feasibility study. Comments received during the study public outreach meetings support a conceptual boundary that includes the five counties and their waterways. **Therefore, the study area meets *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion 9 and legislation criterion M.**

## CRITERION 10

*The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.*

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion I.

The proposed local coordinating entity for the Northern Neck Heritage Area is the Northern Neck Tourism Commission. Organized in 2009, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission is a working committee of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Established in 1969 as one of 21 planning district commissions in Virginia, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission is a voluntary association of local governments intended to foster intergovernmental cooperation by bringing together local elected and appointed officials and involved citizens to discuss common needs and determine solutions to regional issues. The Northern Neck Planning District Commission oversees a wide range of comprehensive planning, technical assistance, grant seeking, and regional coordination activities including the Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership, the Northern Neck Broadband Authority, the Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, and the Northern Neck Tourism Commission (see figure 16). Therefore, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission will serve as the umbrella organization who can receive federal funds and will provide resources and legal identity to the Northern Neck Tourism Commission.

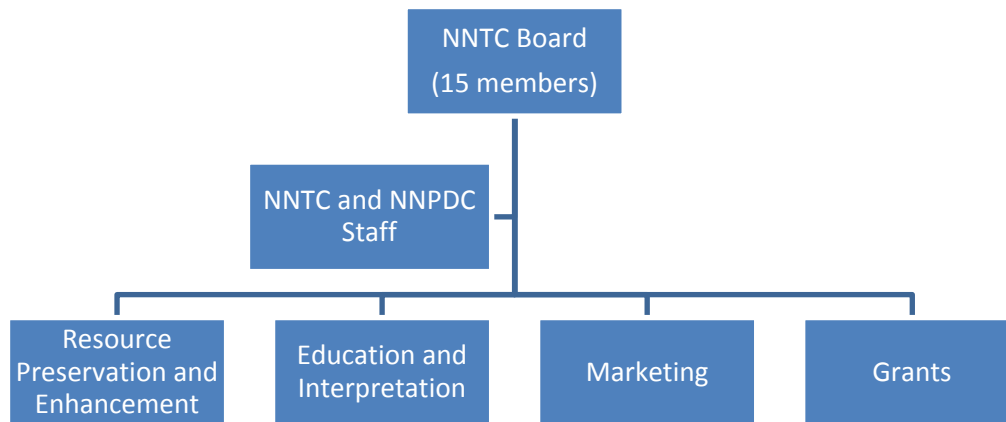


**FIGURE 16. PROPOSED LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY STRUCTURE**

The mission of the Northern Neck Tourism Commission is to promote the cultural, natural, historic and recreational assets of the Northern Neck and to support local efforts to conserve land, water, scenic views, and cultural landscapes that contribute to the Northern Neck’s distinction as a heritage destination.

The Northern Neck Tourism Commission is a fifteen-member commission, appointed by the Boards of Supervisors of the five counties in the study area (figure 17). Starting in 2012, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission has actively been working on branding the Northern Neck as a heritage area. Comprised of elected officials, regional and local government employees, local business owners, representatives of regional historic and heritage organizations, state park representatives as well as citizen members, the NNTC board meets quarterly and guides and advises the management of the Northern Neck Heritage Area. Within the five counties, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission represents itself as a resource to serve the small businesses, nonprofits, state and federal entities in the region that are open to the public and contribute to the Northern Neck community. From

technical assistance to business educational workshops to partnering on or endorsing grant proposals, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission seeks to develop the area’s tourism assets and attract more visitors as a way to diversify and expand the local economy while fostering community stewardship of the Northern Neck’s cultural and natural heritage. In every substantive undertaking, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission looks to the heritage merits of a program or proposal in assessing its fit with the work plan as defined by the *Northern Neck Tourism Plan* (revised in 2013). The principal office of the Commission is in Warsaw, Virginia.



**FIGURE 17. NORTHERN NECK TOURISM COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Currently, NNPDC staff support the Northern Neck Tourism Commission. Current NNPDC staff consists of six employees covering the areas of environmental planning, tourism/economic development, and marketing. The environmental planning staff can assist with preservation, conservation, and recreation projects associated with the potential national heritage area. The tourism and economic development staff can facilitate and coordinate public and private heritage tourism efforts in the five-county region. The marketing staff (website, brochures, and communication) can assist in cooperating with the potential national heritage area sites to leverage local resources that would promote the area. The Northern Neck Planning District Commission has committed to directly supporting the proposed Northern Neck National Heritage Area by sharing technical and support staff with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission.

The proposed national heritage area would comprise one half-time equivalent position (partially funded through the Northern Neck Planning District Commission) devoted to the proposed national heritage area’s resource development and interpretation, community engagement and outreach, as well as destination marketing efforts. Combined with the NNPDC staff, support activities are expected to equal one full-time equivalent national heritage area staff position. Starting in year 4, a full-time staff member fully funded through national heritage area resources would be in place. This position would be solely dedicated to the administration of the national heritage area. The office in Warsaw that would house the heritage area management entity is a fully supported and equipped.

Based on the information provided and interviews with the NTCC, the study team concludes that the proposed Heritage Area has a local coordinating entity that would be responsible for preparing and implementing the management plan for the area and the local coordinating entity has been described. Therefore, criterion 10 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion I of the legislation are met.

## **ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT**

The Northern Neck NHA feasibility study legislation requires additional consultation with managers of federal lands within the study area. Federal agencies associated with Northern Neck lands considered as part of the proposed NHA boundary are

- National Park Service (George Washington Birthplace National Monument)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Rappahannock River Valley Wildlife Refuge)
- US Navy (Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, Virginia).

In June 2019, the National Park Service provided managers with these federal agencies copies of the draft study and invited them to participate in an interagency review. Recipients were asked to submit any concerns or objections with the preliminary findings to the National Park Service within 30 days of receipt. A non-response was considered to be concurrence with the findings included in the draft feasibility study. The report was also submitted to the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer for consultation and concurrence as a representative of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Respondents concurred with the findings and submitted minor revisions, which were incorporated into this draft. Letters received by the National Park Service during the interagency review are included in appendix H. Per the authorizing legislation, with the consultation requirement complete, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to Congress that describes the findings of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.





**CHAPTER 6.  
STUDY CONCLUSION**

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## CHAPTER 6: STUDY CONCLUSION

The stories of the Northern Neck weave together the area's diverse natural and historic resources and show how the study area's waterways and geography have influenced the peninsula's economic and social history. The study team identified a nationally significant story and associated resources that contribute to a cohesive natural and cultural landscape that represents a distinct aspect of the history of the United States. A significance statement and interpretive themes were developed to convey the importance of the Northern Neck's attributes of significance and their connections to today. Using the study area's resources to guide the significance statement and interpretive themes, the study team identified a nationally significant landscape with scores of directly associated resources as well as other supporting resources that help convey the study area's contribution to American heritage.

Analysis of the Northern Neck study area history, its resources, and an evaluation of resources using NHA criteria revealed that there appears to be a strategic assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources capable of supporting a nationally important landscape; therefore, the study area and its resources meet NHA criterion 1 and study legislation criteria A, B, and C. Customs, traditions, or folkways associated with the Northern Neck and broader Chesapeake Region continue to be practiced throughout the study area, and local event and commemorations celebrate the independence of Northern Neck people and their connection to national movements and the land. Together, these lifeways meet NHA criterion 2 and study legislation criteria D and G.

Existing NPS programs, nonprofit historic sites, federal and state land management agencies, land conservation organizations, and heritage tourism initiatives currently conserve the natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources found in the study area; a Northern Neck National Heritage Area would have the potential to work with these existing partners to support ongoing preservation, conservation, and heritage tourism efforts. The study area's potential for future conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities meets NHA criteria 3 and 4 and study legislation criteria E and F. The majority of resources considered part of the nationally significant landscape were found to have sufficient integrity to support interpretation to meet NHA criterion 5.

NHA Criteria 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and study legislation criteria H-M were found to be met through local support and ongoing efforts of the Northern Neck Tourism Commission.

Based on the analysis presented in this feasibility study, the study team concludes that the Northern Neck study area meets all 10 feasibility evaluation criteria established in the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (NPS 2003) and all of the individual criteria laid out in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11) that directed the NPS to prepare this study. These findings are supported through documentation and analysis presented in chapter 5. The findings of this study support the current heritage tourism and land conservation efforts in the area and the Northern Neck Tourism Commission's continued dedication to economic development and promotion of the peninsula's natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources.

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**APPENDIXES, REFERENCES,  
AND PREPARERS**



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# APPENDIX A: OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

123 STAT. 1288 PUBLIC LAW 111-11, MARCH 30, 2009

## Subtitle B – Studies

### SECTION 8102. NORTHERN NECK, VIRGINIA

#### (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- (1) PROPOSED HERITAGE AREA.—The term “proposed Heritage Area” means the proposed Northern Neck National Heritage Area.
- (2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Virginia.
- (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the area that is comprised of—
  - (A) the area of land located between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers of the eastern coastal region of the State;
  - (B) Westmoreland, Northumberland, Richmond, King George, and Lancaster Counties of the State; and
  - (C) any other area that—
    - (i) has heritage aspects that are similar to the heritage aspects of the areas described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and
    - (ii) is located adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, those areas.

#### (b) STUDY.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, State historical societies, and other appropriate organizations, shall conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as the Northern Neck National Heritage Area.
- (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—
  - (A) has an assemblage of natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational resources that together are nationally important to the heritage of the United States;
  - (B) represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use;
  - (C) is best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level;
  - (D) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the heritage of the United States;
  - (E) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic features;
  - (F) provides outstanding recreational or educational opportunities;
  - (G) contains resources and has traditional uses that have national importance;
  - (H) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and appropriate Federal agencies and State and local governments that are involved in the planning

of, and have demonstrated significant support for, the designation and management of the proposed Heritage Area;

(I) has a proposed local coordinating entity that is responsible for preparing and implementing the management plan developed for the proposed Heritage Area;

(J) with respect to the designation of the study area, has the support of the proposed local coordinating entity and appropriate Federal agencies and State and local governments, each of which has documented the commitment of the entity to work in partnership with each other entity to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the resources located in the study area;

(K) through the proposed local coordinating entity, has developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government) in the management of the proposed Heritage Area;

(L) has a proposal that is consistent with continued economic activity within the area; and

(M) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public and appropriate Federal agencies.

(3) **ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.**—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) consult with the managers of any Federal land located within the study area; and

(B) before making any determination with respect to the designation of the study area, secure the concurrence of each manager with respect to each finding of the study.

**(c) DETERMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of the State, shall review, comment on, and determine if the study area meets each requirement described in subsection (b)(2) for designation as a national heritage area.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study, the Secretary shall submit a report describing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study to—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The report shall contain—

(I) any comments that the Secretary has received from the Governor of the State relating to the designation of the study area as a national heritage area; and

(II) a finding as to whether the study area meets each requirement described in subsection (b)(2) for designation as a national heritage area.



(ii) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary determines that the study area does not meet any requirement described in subsection (b)(2) for designation as a national heritage area, the Secretary shall include in the report a description of each reason for the determination.

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## APPENDIX B: PARTIAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The following list of study area resources was compiled by the study team to examine the types of resources present in the Northern Neck and if they would support the criteria outlined in Public Law 111-11 and established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Many properties of the Northern Neck remain unevaluated for national historic significance. Future research and historic evaluations may identify other resources fitting the attributes of significance that would contribute to a national heritage area (NHA) if established. The first table includes primary resources of the Northern Neck. The second table is a partial listing of secondary resources where visitors would be exposed to themes represented in the primary resources. The third tables offers a breakdown of resources by county. Acronyms below include: National Register of Historic Places NRHP, Virginia Landmark Register (VLR), and National Historic Landmark (NHL).

### Primary Resources:

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
King George	Belle Grove	Historic building; archeologic site	9221 Belle Grove Dr., King George, VA	Birthplace of James Madison	Added to the NRHP in 1973	Yes	Currently operates as a bed and breakfast	Attitude of Independence; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
King George	Caledon State Park	Natural area; historic district	11617 Caledon Road, King George, VA	State park managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation that includes 302-acre National Natural landmark old growth oak-tulip-poplar forest and bald eagle habitat on the banks of the Potomac River	Designed a National Natural Landmark in 1974; Virginia Landmark Register (VLR) eligible historic district	Yes	Visitor center, hiking, fishing, picnicking, educational programs, special events	Attitude of Independence, Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation, A Representative Chesapeake Landscape, Persistence of Place
King George	Chotank Creek Natural Area Preserve	Natural area	Adjacent to Caledon State Park King George, VA	An 1108-acre privately owned natural area preserve along the Potomac River known for bald eagle habitat.	None	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Cleydael (Quarterneck)	Historic building	Off of VA Rt. 206, Weedonville, VA	A historic home built in 1859; historically significant as the site where John Wilkes Booth sought medical attention on April 23, 1865	Added to the NRHP in 1986; VLR preservation easement	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
King George	Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail	Heritage trail	Varied: Mailing address is P.O. Box 53, Dahlgren, VA	A 15.7-mile trail that follows the railroad line built during World War II to serve the Navy base	None	Currently private; requires a permit to use	Cycling, hiking, horseback riding	Persistence of Place
King George	Eagle's Nest	Historic building	VA Rt. 647 E. of intersections of Rts. 218 and 682	Historic home built in the late 18th century	Added to the NRHP in 1992	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Emmanuel Episcopal Church	Historic building	US Rt. 301	Gothic church built between 1859 and 1860	Added to the NRHP in 1987	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Lamb's Creek Church	Historic building	Lamb's Creek Rd. off of VA Rt. 3	Historic Episcopal church built between 1769 and 1770	Added to the NRHP in 1972	Yes	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
King George	Land's End Wildlife Management Area	Natural area	VA Rt. 698 King George, VA	A 462-acre refuge managed by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl	None	Yes	Bird watching, wildlife viewing	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Marmion	Historic building	East side of eastern end of VA Rt. 649; .8 mi. NE of intersection of VA Rt. 649 and VA Rt. 609	Historic house built around 1670	Added to the NRHP in 1970; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
King George	Millbank	Historic building; archeological ruins	15615 Millbank Rd (VA Rt. 631), Port Conway, VA	Current house dates to 1900; property initially settled in 1669	Added to the NRHP in 2005	No	None	Persistence of Place; American Indians of the Rappahannock

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
King George	Nanzatico	Historic building	South side of southern end of VA Rt. 650; 18 mi. south of intersection of VA Rt. 650 and VA Rt. 625	Historic plantation house built around 1770	Added to the NRHP in 1969	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Office Hall	Historic building	Junction of VA Rt. 3 and US Rt. 301	Plantation house built between 1805-1820	Added to the NRHP in 1991	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Powhatan Rural Historic District	Historic district; archeological site	Junction of VA Rt. 607 and VA Rt. 610	An assemblage of buildings that represents the land holdings of Edward Thornton Tayloe, a member of the US diplomatic service in the mid-18th century	Added to the NRHP in 1992	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Ralph Bunche High School	Historic building	10139 James Madison Hwy, King George, VA	African-American high school built in 1949	Added to the NRHP in 2006	No	None	Attitude of Independence
King George	Rokeyby	Historic building	5447 Kings Hwy, King George, VA	A historic home built around 1828	Added to the NRHP in 2005	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	St. Paul's Parish Church	Historic building	.3 miles south of intersection of VA Rt. 206 and VA Rt. 218	An Episcopal church built in the late 1760s	Added to the NRHP in 1973	Yes	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
King George	White Plains	Historic building	15318 James Madison Parkway	A historic home built around 1786	Listed in the VLR	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Wilmont Landing	Recreational access	18049 Wilmont Rd. King George, VA	A boat landing site that provides non-motorized access to the Rappahannock River	None	Yes	Boating	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
King George	Woodlawn Historic and Archeological District	Historic district	Rt. 3, Box 327, off of VA Rt. 625	An 899-acre plantation property, including a main house and surviving antebellum slave quarters	Added to the NRHP in 1991; VLR preservation easement	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Baylor Park	Natural area	VA Rt. 3 Kilmarnock, VA	A 5.1-acre park owned by the Town of Kilmarnock that provides access to a stream and pond system typical of the Northern Neck Uplands	None	Yes	Nature trail	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Belle Isle State Park	Natural area, historic building	1632 Belle Isle Rd. Lancaster, VA	Virginia state park that preserves 7 miles of Rappahannock River shoreline and a historic plantation house built ca. 1759	Added to NRHP in 1973	Yes	Camping, hiking, biking, boating	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Chilton House	Historic building	8300 Mary Ball Rd. Lancaster, VA	Historic home located in Lancaster Historic District	Part of Lancaster Historic District added to NRHP in 1983; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Chilton Woods State Forest Park	Natural area	Rt. 602 (Field Trail Road) Lancaster, VA	Virginia Department of Forestry-managed park that provides upland wildlife habitat and ongoing timber harvesting	None	Yes	Hiking, birdwatching, hunting	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Christ Church & Museum	Historic building	420 Christ Church Road, Weems VA	One of best preserved colonial churches in US; built 1732-25	Designated as an NHL in 1961; Added to the NRHP in 1966; VLR preservation easement	Yes	Museum exhibits and guest speakers/special events	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Lancaster	Corotoman	Archeological site	Address Restricted	A historic archeological site of the 17th-18th century plantation and residence of Robert Carter, colonial governor of Virginia.	Added to NRHP in 1970	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Lancaster	Fox Hill Plantation	Historic building	2.3 miles SW of Lively; 400' W of Old State Route 201; .3 mile south of Blakemore Pond	19th-century plantation house built circa 1820	Added to the NRHP in 1978	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
Lancaster	Irvington Historic District	Historic district	Irvington, VA	19th-century maritime historic district also known as Carter's Creek; includes 149 contributing buildings, 3 contributing sites, and one other contributing structure.	Added to the NRHP in 2000	Yes	Community of approximately 2,000 offers a variety of tourist opportunities	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Lancaster	Kilmarnock Museum	Historic building	76 N. Main St., Kilmarnock, VA	Museum celebrating the history and community events that make Kilmarnock what it is today. Located in the oldest remaining house in town	None	Yes	Museum exhibits and artifacts	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Lancaster Court House Historic District	Historic district	Off of VA Rt. 3	An assemblage of buildings dated back to the 18th and 19th centuries; four of the buildings make up the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library	Added to the NRHP in 1983	Yes	Some of the contributing buildings are open to the public	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Locustville	Historic building	East side of VA Rt. 625, ½ mi. east of junction with VA Rt. 354	Historic plantation house built in 1855	Added to the NRHP in 1994	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Pope Castle	Historic building	VA Rt. 659	Plantation built in 1855	Added to the NRHP in 1989	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	St. Mary's Whitechapel	Historic building	At the intersection of VA Rt. 354 and VA Rt. 201	An Episcopal church founded in 1669; the parish was the birthplace of Mary Ball Washington, George Washington's mother	Added to the NRHP in 1969	Yes	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Lancaster	Verville	Historic building	VA Rt. 611	Plantation house built around 1742	Added to the NRHP in 1987	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Lancaster	Village of Morattico Historic District	Historic district	Portions of Morattico Rd., Riverside Dr., Salt Water Dr., Church Ln., Sea Shell Ln., Mulberry Creek Rd., and Water View Rd.	An assemblage of commercial, residential, and institutional buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries	Added to the NRHP in 2011	Yes	Some of the contributing buildings are open to the public	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Northumberland	Bluff Point Grades School No. 3	Historic building	2595 Bluff Point Rd., Kilmarnock, VA	Schoolhouse built between 1912 and 1913	Added to the NRHP in 2009	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve	Natural area	VA Rt. 642 Heathsville, VA	A 103-acre preserve at the head of the Wicomico River that provides habitat for raptors and migrating birds	None	Yes	Hiking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Cloughton-Wright House	Historic building	2 miles NE of junction of VA Rt. 623 and VA Rt. 624	A historic home built in 1787	Added to the NRHP in 1997; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Clifton	Historic building	49 Clifton Ave., Kilmarnock, VA	Historic house built circa 1785	Added to the NRHP in 2004; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Coan Baptist Church	Historic building	VA Rt. 638, East of junction with VA Rt. 612	Historic church built in 1846; congregation founded in 1804	Added to the NRHP in 1995	Yes	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Cobbs Hall	Historic building	582 Cobbs Hall Ln., Kilmarnock, VA	Plantation house built in 1853; property associated with the Lee family since the middle of the 17th century	Added to the NRHP in 2001	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve	Natural area	VA 693 Kilmarnock, VA	A 316-acre preserve that contains one of the most significant wetlands on the Chesapeake Bay for marsh-bird communities	None	Yes	Hiking, boating, birdwatching, wildlife viewing	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Ditchley	Historic building	North side of VA Rt. 607, 2000 ft east of junction with VA Rt. 669	Plantation house built 1762; renovated and modernized by Jesse Ball DuPont	Added to the NRHP in 1992	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Elva C. (deck boat)	Historic vessel	504 Main St., Reedville, VA	Chesapeake Bay deck boat built 1922 by Gilbert White, one of Virginia's best known deck boat builders	Added to the NRHP in 2005	Yes	Tours of the bay	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
Northumberland	Heathsville Historic District	Historic district	US Rt. 360 at junction with VA Rt. 634 and VA Rt. 201	An assemblage of buildings dated to the 18th-20th centuries	Added to the NRHP in 1992; VLR preservation easements on individual buildings	Yes	Some of the contributing buildings are open to the public	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Holley Graded School	Historic building	US Rt. 360	Historic African-American school built in stages between 1914 and 1933	Added to the NRHP in 1990	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Howland Chapel School	Historic building	VA Rt. 201 and VA Rt. 642	African-American school built in 1867 to serve children of former enslaved people	Added to the NRHP in 1991	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve	Natural area	VA 605 Kilmarnock, VA	A 204-acre state preserve along the Chesapeake Bay	None	Yes	Hiking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Hurstsville	Historic building	E. side of VA Rt. 605, 3500 ft. S. of junction with VA. Rt. 606	Plantation house built circa 1777; later purchased by Jessie Ball DuPont	Added to the NRHP in 1992; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Kirkland Grove Campground	Historic structure	VA Rt. 779, 1.6 mi south of Heathsville	Historic Baptist campground established in 1892	Added to the NRHP in 1992	No	None (Still used by members of the Baptist community)	Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Oakley	Historic building	28 Back St., Heathsville, VA	Plantation house built ca. 1820	Added to the NRHP in 1999	None	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Reedsville Historic District	Historic district	US Rt. 360 and VA Rt. 644	An assemblage of primarily residential buildings dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries	Added to the NRHP in 1992	Yes	Some of the contributing buildings are open to the public	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Northumberland	Rice's Hotel (AKA Hughlett's Tavern)	Historic building	Junction of VA Rt. 1001 and VA Rt. 1002	A historic inn and tavern built in stages between ca. 1795 and the mid-19th century	Added to the NRHP in 1992 (part of the Heathsville Historic District)	Yes	Historic tavern, which is managed by the nonprofit Tavern Foundation, is open for numerous special events throughout the year; site of the Heathsville Farmers Market	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Shalango	Historic building	VA Rt. 666	Historic plantation house built in 1855-56	Added to the NRHP in 1986	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Shiloh School	Historic building	Junction of VA Rt. 605 and VA Rt. 606	Historic one-room school building that dates to 1906	Added to the NRHP in 1992	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Smith Point Light Station	Historic building	Off of the West shore of Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Potomac River	Caisson lighthouse constructed in 1887 and manned until 1971	Added to the NRHP in 2002	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Northumberland	Springfield	Historic building	VA Rt. 360	Historic plantation house built between 1828 and 1830. Expanded and renovated in the 1850s	Added to the NRHP in 1979	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	St. Stephen's Church	Historic building	6807 US Route 360	Historic Episcopal church built in 1881	Added to the NRHP in 1979 (later included as part of the Heathsville Historic District)	Yes	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Sunnyside	Historic building	South side of US Rt. 360, E. of junction with VA Rt. 201	A plantation house that was built around 1822	Added to the NRHP in 1996; part of the Heathsville Historic District	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
Northumberland	The Academy	Historic building	Junction of Main St. and St. Stephen's Ln., Heathsville, VA	A historic home built around 1800	Added to the NRHP in 1997; part of the Heathsville Historic District	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	The Anchorage	Historic building	North side of VA Rt. 605, 1 mile west of junction with VA Rt. 669	Historic house built in the early 18th century	Added to the NRHP in 1995	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Versailles	Historic building	VA Rt. 360, ¼ mile west of intersection with VA Rt. 200	Historic house built between 1853 and 1857	Added to the NRHP in 1997	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Wheatland	Historic building	VA Rt. 624, Callao	Plantation house built between 1848 and 1850	Added to the NRHP in 1988	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Richmond	Dew House (better known as Linden Farm)	Historic building	North side of VA Rt. 3, north on Farnham; .3 mile east of the intersection of VA Rt. 3 and VA Rt. 611	A historic home built in two stages between 1700 and 1725	Added to the NRHP in 1977; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Richmond	Farnham Church	Historic building	North of VA Rt. 602 and VA Rt. 692	Episcopal church built in 1737; site of a skirmish in the War of 1812 between the Virginia militia and the British fleet	Added to the NRHP in 1973; VLR preservation easement	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Richmond	Grove Mount	Historic building	VA Rt. 635	Plantation built between 1780 and 1800; significant for Georgian architecture	Added to the NRHP in 1991; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Richmond	Indian Banks	Historic building; archeological site	Address Restricted	Historic home built in 1699 on the site of a Moraughtacund Indian village visited by Capt. John Smith in 1609	Added to the NRHP in 1980	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; American Indians of the Rappahannock; Persistence of Place
Richmond	Menokin	Archeological site	4037 Menokin Rd., Warsaw, VA	Archeological ruins at the former home site of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence	Added to the NRHP in 1969; Designated as an NHL in 1971; VLR preservation easement	Yes	Guided and self-directed tours of the property; visitor center exhibits and artifacts; guest speakers	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Richmond	Mount Airy	Historic building	West of Warsaw on US Rt. 360	Plantation built in 1764 by Col. John Tayloe II; used briefly by Francis Lightfoot Lee and his wife while Menokin was being built	Designated as an NHL in 1960; Added to the NRHP in 1966; VLR preservation easement	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Richmond	Richmond County Courthouse	Historic building	Junction of US Rt. 360 with VA Rt. 3	A historic courthouse built between 1748 and 1750	Added to the NRHP in 1972	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Richmond	Sabine Hall	Historic building	.2 miles west of Jugs Creek, .4 miles south of southern end of VA Rt. 624, 1.4 miles south of intersection of VA Rt. 624 and US Rt. 360	Historic house built around 1730 by Landon Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter of Corotoman and political tract author including one concerned with the repeal of the Stamp Act	Added to the NRHP in 1969; Designated as an NHL in 1969; VLR preservation easement	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Richmond	Woodford	Historic building	VA Rt. 610, Simons Corner, VA	A historic home dating to the mid-18th century	Added to the NRHP in 1983	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
Westmoreland	Armistead T. Johnson High School	Historic Building / Museum	0.2 miles NW of the intersection of VA Rt. 3 and VA Rt. 202	An African-American high school built in 1937. Now a repository of collections, artifacts, and memorabilia, documents, and other items related to the African-American experience on the Northern Neck	Added to NRHP in 1998	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Bell House	Historic building	821 Irving Ave., Colonial Beach, VA	The summer home of Alexander Graham Bell	Added to NHHP in 1987; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Blenheim	Historic building	South of Bridges Creek; North Side of VA Rt. 3; .6 mile	Home built in 1781 for William Augustine Washington, son of George Washington's half brother	Added to the NRHP in 1975; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Burnt House Field Burial Ground	Archeological site	Route 675	Lee Family burial ground and former site of Mount Pleasant, which was burnt to the ground in 1739; burials include Thomas Lee (builder of Stratford), Hannah Ludwell (wife of Thomas Lee); Richard Henry Lee, and his two wives.	None	Yes	Accessible by public road	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	Bushfield Manor	Historic building	367 Club House Loop, Mount Holly, VA	Plantation house built in the late 18th century; home to John Bushrod and John Augustine Washington, George Washington's brother	Added to the NRHP in 2004	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Chantilly	Archeological site	Address Restricted	A historic archeological site of the grounds of former home of Richard Henry Lee	Added to the NRHP in 1971	No	Site restricted	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	George Washington Birthplace National Monument	Historic building; archeological site	1732 Popes Creek Rd., Colonial Beach, VA	Birthplace and childhood residence of the first president of the United States	Established as a national monument in 1930; Added to the NRHP in 1966	Yes	Museum exhibits and artifacts, interpretation from NPS rangers and re-enactors	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; American Indians of the Rappahannock; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	Ingleside	Historic building	East side of VA Rt. 638; .4 mile south of intersection of VA Rt. 638 and VA Rt. 636	Historic home built in 1834; operated as the Washington Academy until 1844	Added to the NRHP in 1979	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	James Monroe Family Home Site	Historic building; archeological site	4460 James Monroe Hwy, Colonial Beach, VA	A historic archeological site that includes the ruins of Monroe's family home and Monroe's birthplace	Added to the NRHP in 1979	Yes	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	Kinsale Historic District	Historic district	Area including parts of Bank Street, Great House, Kinsale, Plain View, and Kinsale Bridge roads	An assemblage of commercial and residential buildings dated to the late 19th to early 20th century	Added to the NRHP in 2005	Yes	Some of the contributing buildings are open to the public	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Morgan Jones 1677 Pottery Kiln	Archeological site	Address restricted	Historic archeological site with remains of pottery kiln operated by Morgan Jones and Dennis White in 1677	Added to the NRHP in 1974	No	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Mount Pleasant	Historic building	317 Coles Point Rd., Hague, VA	Historic home built in 1887	Added to the NRHP in 2002; VLR preservation easement	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Panorama	Historic building	1005 Panorama Rd., Montross, VA	Historic estate built in 1932	Added to the NRHP in 2011	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Rochester House	Historic building	Country Rt. 613, 1 mi. NE of Lyells off VA Rt. 3	Historic, Colonial plan home built in 1746 by William Rochester, the grandfather of the man who later founded Rochester, NY	Added to the NRHP in 2002	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Roxbury	Historic building	1.7 miles south of Oak Grove; west side of VA Rt. 638; .1 mile NE of intersection of VA Rt. 638 and VA Rt. 636	A historic home built in 1861	Added to the NRHP in 1979	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place



County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes supporting Significance
Westmoreland	Spence's Point	Historic building	On Sandy Point Neck, off of VA Rt. 749	The home of writer John Dos Passos for the last 25 years of his life	Added to the NRHP in 1971; Designated as an NHL in 1971	No	None	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Spring Grove	Historic building	VA Rt. 202	Historic farmhouse built in 1834	Added to the NRHP in 1985	No	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	St. Peter's Episcopal Church	Historic building	Junction of VA Rt. 3 and VA Rt. 205	An Episcopal church built between 1848-1849	Added to the NRHP in 2004	Yes	None	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Stratford Hall	Historic building; archeological site	3 miles north of Lerty on VA. Rt. 214	Historic, boyhood home of Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, both of whom signed the Declaration of Independence, and the birthplace of Robert E. Lee	Designated as an NHL in 1960; VLR preservation easement	Yes	Tours of the historic house and grounds; exhibits and artifacts; some special events (luncheons, stargazing sessions)	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	Vorhees Nature Preserve	Natural area	1235 Berry Farm Lane Colonial Beach, VA	The Nature Conservancy-owned preserve adjacent to Westmoreland Berry Farm that includes forest and freshwater marsh along the Rappahannock River	None	Yes	Hiking	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Wawaset	Historic vessel	Chatterton's Landing	A shipwreck of an 1873 steamer that caught fire and sank	None	No	No	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Westmoreland	Westmoreland County Courthouse	Historic site	15803 Kings Hwy Montross, VA	Location of Old Westmoreland Courthouse, the site of Richard Henry Lee's resolution to send aid to Boston (1774) and Westmoreland Resolves that denounced royal governor for seizing Virginia Colony's powder supply.	None	Yes	Operated by Westmoreland County Museum	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	Westmoreland State Park	Natural area; historic district	1650 State Park Rd., Montross, VA	One of the six original state parks, built by the CCC and opened in June 1936	Historic district added to the NRHP in 2005	Yes	Camping, hiking, fishing, boating	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Wirtland	Historic building	1.9 miles SSE of the intersection of VA Rt. 3 and VA Rt. 638; .2 miles W of VA Rt. 638	Historic house built in 1850 by William Wirt, Jr., the son of former Attorney General William Wirt (1817-1829)	Added to the NRHP in 1979	No	None	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place;
Westmoreland	Yeocomico Church	Historic building	VA Rt. 606, Tucker Hill	An Episcopal church built in 1655	Added to the NRHP in 1969, Designated an NHL in 1970	Yes	None	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Multiple	Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail	Heritage trail	Varied: Mailing address is 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 314, Annapolis, MD	Network of more than 3,000 miles of Chesapeake Bay and local rivers mapped by John Smith and his crew	Established as NPS national historic trail in 2006	Yes	Accessible via paddling, boating, driving, and on foot	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; American Indians of the Rappahannock
Multiple	Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail	Heritage trail	Varied	A 710-mile trail network tracing the diverse features of the Potomac River corridor	Managed by the NPS since its establishment in 1983	Yes	Cycling, hiking	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; American Indians of the Rappahannock
Multiple	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Natural area	Varied	Refuge along the Rappahannock River managed by US Fish and Wildlife Service that preserves fresh water tidal marsh, forest swamp, upland deciduous forest, mixed pine forest, and grassland habitats	Designated by Audubon Society as Important Bird Area	Yes	Visitor Center, hiking, fishing, birdwatching, wildlife viewing	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Multiple	Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail	Heritage trail	Varied	A 560-mile land and water route that tells the story of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake Bay region.	Established as NPS national historic trail in 2008	Yes		Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; American Indians of the Rappahannock; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck

**Secondary Resources:**

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes Supporting Significance
King George	Dahlgren Heritage Museum	Museum	3540 James Madison Hwy, King George, VA	A museum that preserves and promote the history, traditions, heritage, and culture of the US Navy presence at Dahlgren	None	Yes	Museum exhibits and artifacts	Attitude of Independence; Waterways—Connectivity and Isolation
King George	King George County Museum & Research Center	Museum	9483 Kings Highway King George, VA	Research library with museum collection	None	Yes	Research library and county history exhibits	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Lancaster	Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library	Museum	8346 Mary Ball Rd, Lancaster VA	A museum dedicated to discovering, collecting, preserving, understanding, and interpreting the history of Lancaster County and the surrounding counties	None	Yes	Museum exhibits and artifacts; educational and interpretive programming from reenactors	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Lancaster	Morattico Waterfront Museum	Historic Building / Museum	6584 Morattico Rd., Morattico, VA	A museum dedicated to preserving the cultural history of Morattico and its waterfront traditions	Part of Village of Morattico Historic District listed in NRHP	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts; some special events (i.e. crab feasts and oyster roasts)	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Lancaster	Steamboat Era Museum	Museum	156 King Carter Dr., Irvington, VA	A museum established in 2004 that tells the story of steamboats and how they altered the lives of the men, women, and children living along Chesapeake Bay	None	Yes	Artifacts and exhibits; some special events (a steamboat era holiday fashion show)	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Northumberland	Northern Neck Farm Museum	Museum	12705 Northumberland Hwy., Heathsville, VA 22473	A museum dedicated to showing visitors the story of the Northern Neck farmer and the many contributions that the unique lifestyle of agriculture has contributed to the nation	None	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts; some special events and installations (i.e. planting day, threshing day, a corn maze in the fall)	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Northumberland	Reedville Fisherman’s Museum	Museum	504 Main St., Reedville, VA	A museum dedicated to preserving the heritage of Virginia’s watermen, history, and culture	None	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts; some special events (a winter lecture series, an oyster roast in the summer)	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Marine Industry and Lifeways
Richmond	Richmond County Museum	Museum	5874 Richmond Rd.	A museum the preserves and interprets the story of Richmond County from prehistoric times to the present	None	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; Persistence of Place; American Indians of the Rappahannock; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck
Westmoreland	Armistead T. Johnson High School	Historic Building / Museum	0.2 miles NW of the intersection of VA Rt. 3 and VA Rt. 202	An African-American high school built in 1937. Now a repository of collections, artifacts, and memorabilia, documents, and other items related to the African-American experience on the Northern Neck	Added to NRHP in 1998	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts	Attitude of Independence; Persistence of Place

County	Site Name	Resource Category	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes / Attributes Supporting Significance
Westmoreland	Colonial Beach Museum	Museum	128 Hawthorn St, Colonial Beach, VA	Artifacts and photos that interpret the story of Colonial Beach and the Potomac River	None	Yes	Museum exhibits and artifacts	Attitude of Independence; Waterways—Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Kinsale Foundation and Museum	Museum	449 Kinsale Rd., Kinsale, VA	A museum exploring the history of the Kinsale community	None	Yes	Museum exhibits and artifacts	Attitude of Independence; Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place
Westmoreland	Westmoreland County Museum	Museum	43 Court Square (Polk St.), Montross VA	The oldest museum in the Northern Neck, established to display Charles Wilson Peale's 1768 portrait of William Pitt and chronicle the history of Westmoreland County	None	Yes	Exhibits and artifacts; some special events (an antiques roadshow event every summer for museum members)	Attitude of Independence; A Representative Chesapeake Landscape; Persistence of Place; Early American Politics in the Northern Neck

**Resource Representation by County and Theme:**

Theme / Attribute Supporting Significance	King George	Lancaster	Northumberland	Richmond	Westmoreland
Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation	3	8	7	2	8
A Representative Chesapeake Landscape	16	14	25	7	22
American Indians of the Rappahannock	1	0	0	2	1
Early American Politics in the Northern Neck	5	4	0	5	6
Marine Industries and Lifeways	0	5	4	0	1
Persistence of Place	19	18	29	10	26
Attitude of Independence	8	10	9	7	14

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## APPENDIX C: EXAMPLES OF NORTHERN NECK LIFEWAYS AND CULTURE

The following examples of lifeways and culture was compiled by the study team to examine if the Northern Neck study area would support the criteria outlined in Public Law 111-11 and established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. The following table is not intended to be comprehensive. Additional examples of traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that support national heritage area themes identified as part of this study may be identified in the future.

Example of Northern Neck Folkways and Culture	Related Theme(s) / Attributes Supporting Significance
Maritime culture –Waterman Heritage Trail, Virginia Oyster Trail	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation A Representative Chesapeake Landscape Marine Industries and Lifeways Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Maritime foodways – oyster, crab, saltfish, oyster roasts	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation A Representative Chesapeake Landscape American Indians of the Rappahannock Marine Industries and Lifeways Persistence of Place
Active docks and wharfs	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation A Representative Chesapeake Landscape Marine Industries and Lifeways Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Menhaden industry and practices—processing center, fishspotting	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation Marine Industries and Lifeways Persistence of Place
Northern Neck Shanty Singers	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation Marine Industries and Lifeways Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Agricultural practices – small, monocrop farms	A Representative Chesapeake Landscape Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Seasonal farmstands	Persistence of Place
Rappahannock culture—language revival, use of traditional clay sources	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation A Representative Chesapeake Landscape American Indians of the Rappahannock Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Rappahannock Return to the River Youth Program	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation American Indians of the Rappahannock Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence

Example of Northern Neck Folkways and Culture	Related Theme(s) / Attributes Supporting Significance
Westmoreland Weavers of the Word	Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
African American churches and congregations	Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Commemorative events—Leedstown Resolves, Robert Carter III’s Deed of Gift, Independence Day at Burnt House Field	American Indians of the Rappahannock Early American Politics in the Northern Neck Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence
Special events—Rappahannock Pow Wow; colonial history events/festivals, agricultural markets, maritime festivals	Waterways-Connectivity and Isolation American Indians of the Rappahannock Early American Politics in the Northern Neck Marine Industries and Lifeways Persistence of Place Attitude of Independence

## APPENDIX D: LETTERS OF SUPPORT



**Northumberland  
Association for  
Progressive  
Stewardship (NAPS)**

P.O. Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473

***NORTHUMBERLAND IS GROWING – HELP IT GROW WITH ORDER AND BEAUTY***

30 November 2012

Jerry W. Davis, AICP  
Executive Director  
Northern Neck Planning District Commission  
P.O. Box 1600  
Warsaw, VA 22572

Dear Mr. Davis,

This purpose of this letter is to affirm the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) is in full support for the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission to be a Management Entity for the proposed Northern Neck National heritage Area.

NAPS stands ready to assist in active participation in providing information and cooperating with the NNPDC/NNTC in heritage area activities.

Sincerely yours,

Wm A. Estell, Jr.  
President, NAPS



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

November 27, 2012

Mr. Jerry W. Davis, AICP  
Executive Director  
Northern Neck Planning District Commission  
P.O. Box 1600  
Warsaw, VA 22572

Dear Mr. Davis:

Through our work in preserving Rosenwald Schools, it has come to our attention that a Northern Neck Heritage Area Feasibility Study is drawing to a close and that the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission has shepherded the process.

The National Trust is currently engaged in a similar process in an 18-county region of the Mississippi Delta. Heritage areas can be key to the preservation and conservation of the natural and historic resources of a region, and often are vital engines of rural economic development through heritage and eco-tourism. Heritage Area management is consistent with the work we all do to preserve our nation's history.

Your agency's involvement and commitment to this work makes it apparent that the Northern Neck planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission is best suited to serve as the management entity for this Heritage Area. We welcome the opportunity to work with you in our mutual efforts for heritage preservation in the Northern Neck.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hildreth".

John Hildreth  
Vice President, Eastern Field Services

JH/th

Charleston Field Office  
William Alken House 456 King Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Charleston, SC 29403  
E [info@savingplaces.org](mailto:info@savingplaces.org) P 843.722.8552 F 843.722.8652 [www.PreservationNation.org](http://www.PreservationNation.org)



PRESERVATION NORTHERN NECK AND MIDDLE PENINSULA, INC.  
P. O. Box 691  
Warsaw, VA 22575

November 18, 2012

Mr. Jerry W. Davis  
AICP, Executive Director, Northern Neck  
Planning District Commission  
P.O. Box 1600  
Warsaw, VA 22572

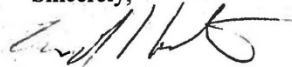
Re: National Heritage Area project

Dear Mr. Davis,

In reply to Lisa Hull's email, the board of PNNMP, at its recent meeting unanimously endorsed the idea of cooperating with the NNPDC/NNTC in heritage area activities.

Please let us know what steps we can undertake which would be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Edward J. White  
President



November 9, 2012

Jerry W. Davis, AICP  
Executive Director  
Northern Neck Planning District Commission  
P. O. Box 1600  
Warsaw, Virginia 22572

Dear Mr. Davis:

Chesapeake Environmental Communications (CEC) endorses the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission (NNPDC) as the proposed Management Entity for the Northern Neck National Heritage Area. CEC appreciates the expertise of NNPDC staff on issues regarding economic development, environmental programs, and tourism in the Northern Neck.

CEC frequently draws upon this expertise, particularly as we work together on the Chesapeake Heritage Program. This program will train watermen to conduct on-water tours. The tours will provide participants with the opportunity to see the Northern Neck from the water, learn about the area's rich history, and experience the Bay from a working waterman's perspective.

CEC strongly supports NNPDC as the management entity for the National Heritage Area. In our opinion, NNPDC is the best organization to take on this role. I would be happy to answer any questions regarding this endorsement.

Sincerely,

Paula Jasinski

Virginia Waterman's Association  
92 Teal Way, Heathsville, VA 22473  
Tel (804) 366-2325 Fax (866) 371-4538  
office@virginiawaterman.com  
www.virginiawaterman.com



November 7, 2012

Jerry W. Davis, AICP  
Executive Director  
Northern Neck Planning District Commission  
P.O. Box 1600  
Warsaw, VA 22572

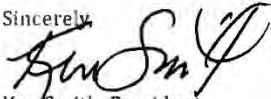
Dear Mr. Davis,

The Virginia Watermen's Association (VWA) is pleased to endorse the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission as the proposed Management Entity for the Northern Neck National Heritage Area. The number of Northern Neck watermen has been in decline and we appreciate the partnership your organization provides in giving much-needed attention to our endangered status.

The VWA looks forward to a long and productive partnership in working with the NNPDC/NNTC in such programs as the Chesapeake Heritage Program, which has been developed to train watermen to conduct on-water tours and tell their story of their work on the Chesapeake and its tributaries. With the support of the NNPDC/NNTC, and in cooperation with other partners, that concept is being transformed into a program which will educate and entertain tourists, and provide economic development along our waterfront.

On behalf of the Virginia Watermen's Association, I heartily support the NNPDC/NNTC acting to manage Heritage Area, whose vision includes the preservation and promotion of our "history and water heritage". No better organization exists to undertake this task than the NNPDC/NNTC.

Sincerely,



Ken Smith, President  
Virginia Watermen's Association

[www.nnconserve.org](http://www.nnconserve.org)  
[nnlandconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:nnlandconservancy@gmail.com)  
804-462-0979



8327 Mary Ball Road  
PO Box 125  
Lancaster, Virginia 22503

**President**  
Steve Walker  
Westmoreland County  
**Vice President**  
Andy Ball  
King George County  
**Secretary**  
Jen Kostyniuk  
Richmond City  
**Treasurer**  
Mason Brent  
Northumberland County  
**Past President**  
Carol Hughes  
Lancaster County

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Karsten Konerding  
Lancaster County  
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Lancaster County  
John O'Shaughnessy  
Lancaster County  
Cindy Packett  
Richmond County  
Mary Louisa Pollard  
Lancaster County  
Hillary Pugh  
Richmond County  
Paul Thompson  
Lancaster County

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**Executive Director**  
Jamie Tucker

**Finance/Records Manager**  
Madrenna Horn

**Land Preservation Specialist**  
Joe Thompson

November 7, 2012

Mr. Jerry W. Davis, AICP  
Executive Director  
Northern Neck Planning District Commission  
P. O. Box 1600  
Warsaw, VA 22572

Dear Jerry:

It has been a pleasure for the Northern Neck Land Conservancy to partner with the Planning District Commission and the Tourism Commission on the Northern Neck Heritage Area Feasibility Study. NNLC is most grateful for the work you and Lisa Hull have done to facilitate this process.

NNLC's mission is to preserve the rural heritage of the Northern Neck by conserving its lands, waters, economies and culture for future generations. Our mission goes hand-in-hand with the purposes of a Northern Neck Heritage Area.

The ongoing and continuing working relationship with your organizations is very important. It is only logical that the Planning District Commission/Tourism Commission serve as the Management Entity for the Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Steve Walker  
President

*Our Mission is to preserve the rural heritage of the Northern Neck by conserving its lands, waters, economies and culture for future generations.*

# APPENDIX E. COUNTY RESOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

**RUBY A. BRABO**  
Dahlgren Election District

**CEDELL BROOKS, JR.**  
Shiloh Election District

**JOSEPH W. GRZEIKA**  
James Madison Election District

**JOHN P. LoBUGLIO**  
James Monroe Election District

**DALE W. SISSON, JR.**  
At-Large Election District



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
**A. TRAVIS QUESENBERRY, P.E.**  
10459 Courthouse Drive, Suite 200  
King George, VA 22485  
Telephone: (540)775-9181  
FAX: (540)775-5248  
Website: www.king-george.va.us

At its meeting of Tuesday, February 21, 2012 the King George County Board of Supervisors, on a motion by Mr. LoBuglio, seconded by Ms. Brabo, and carried unanimously, each member voting as follows: Mr. Brooks Aye; Mr. Sisson Aye; Ms. Brabo Aye; Mr. Grzeika Aye; and Mr. LoBuglio Aye, adopted the following resolution:

## **A Resolution Declaring the Northern Neck of Virginia as A Heritage Area**

WHEREAS the Northern Neck of Virginia is a place where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland have all supported this designation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Legislators serving the Northern Neck have supported legislation that led to the adoption and approval of the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is currently conducting the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, and

WHEREAS, this Study surely will lead to the eventual designation of the Northern Neck of Virginia as a National Heritage Area, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission will serve as the "Local Coordinating Entity" for such Designation, and

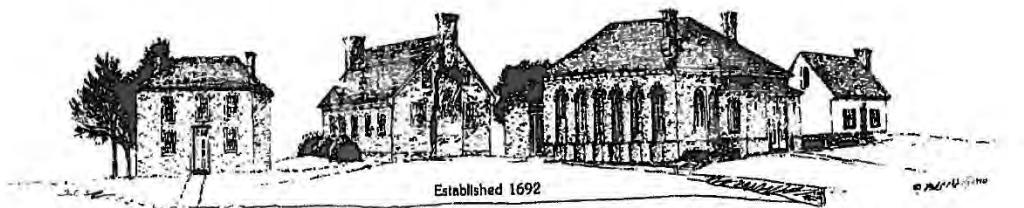
WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the local and regional economy and beneficial to the protection of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to begin activities associated with this designation, and

WHEREAS, there is a recognition that eventual congressional designation will take time and time is of the essence,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Neck Tourism Commission declare the Northern Neck of Virginia as the Northern Neck Heritage Area and include this designation in its marketing efforts, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the NNTC requests the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland to endorse this designation and agree to participate in placing designation signage in its VDOT right-of-way.

A Copy Teste:   
A. Travis Quesenberry, County Administrator



# Richmond County Board of Supervisors

101 Court Circle P.O. Box 1000 Warsaw, Virginia 22572 (804) 333-3415 FAX (804)333-3408 www.co.richmond.va.us

## **A Resolution Declaring the Northern Neck of Virginia as A Heritage Area**

Whereas, the Northern Neck of Virginia is a place where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography, and

Whereas, the Northern Neck Planning Commission, Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland have all supported this designation, and

Whereas, the Federal Legislators serving the Northern Neck have supported legislation that led to the adoption and approval of the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, and

Whereas, the National Park Service is currently conducting the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, and

Whereas, the Study surely will lead to the eventual designation of the Northern Neck of Virginia as a National Heritage Area, and

Whereas, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission will serve as the "Local Coordinating Entity" for such Designation, and

Whereas, it would be beneficial to the local and regional economy and beneficial to the protection of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to begin activities associated with this designation, and

Whereas, there is a recognition that eventual congressional designation will take time and time is of the essence, and

Whereas, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission has declared the Northern Neck of Virginia as the Northern Neck Heritage Area and include this designation in its marketing efforts, and

Richard E. Thomas  
Election District 1

Jean C. Harper  
Election District 2

John L. Haynes, Jr.  
Election District 3

Courtney M. Sisson  
Election District 4

Lee Sanders  
Election District 5

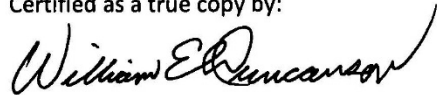
William E. Duncanson  
County Administrator

Wayne L. Emery  
County Attorney

Therefore be it resolved, that Richmond County endorses this designation and agrees to participate in placing designation signage in its VDOT right-of-way.

Adopted on April 12, 2012

Certified as a true copy by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Duncanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".

William E. Duncanson, County Administrator

DARRYL E. FISHER, CHAIRMAN  
ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1  
HAGUE, VIRGINIA 22469

W. W. HYNSON, VICE CHAIRMAN  
ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 4  
COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA 22443

ROSEMARY MAHAN  
ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2  
HAGUE, VIRGINIA 22469

DOROTHY DICKERSON TATE  
ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3  
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA 22520

LARRY ROBERSON  
ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 5  
COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA 22443



NORM RISAVI  
County Administrator  
P. O. BOX 1000  
MONTROSS, VIRGINIA 22520-1000  
PHONE: 804/493-0130  
FAX: 804/493-0134  
E-mail: nrisavi@westmoreland-county.org  
Web Page: www.westmoreland-county.org

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

*Board of Supervisors*

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA 22520-1000

**A Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of the Northern Neck of Virginia as a Heritage Area**

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Neck of Virginia is a place where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography;

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland have all supported this designation;

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Legislators serving the Northern Neck have supported legislation that led to the adoption and approval of the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009;

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service is currently conducting the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study;

**WHEREAS**, this Study surely will lead to the eventual designation of the Northern Neck of Virginia as a National Heritage Area;

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission will serve as the "Local Coordinating Entity" for such Designation;

**WHEREAS**, it would be beneficial to the local and regional economy and beneficial to the protection of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to begin activities associated with this designation;

**WHEREAS**, there is a recognition that eventual congressional designation will take time and time is of the essence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Neck Tourism Commission has declared the Northern Neck of Virginia as the *Northern Neck Heritage Area* and will include this designation in its marketing efforts,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of Westmoreland hereby endorses the designation of the Northern Neck of Virginia as the *Northern Neck Heritage Area* and agrees to participate in placing designation signage in its VDOT right-of-way.

**Date of Adoption: March 12, 2012**

Darryl E. Fisher, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
Westmoreland County



**SUPERVISORS**

*Ronald L. Jett, Chairman*  
Heathsville, VA 22473  
District V

*Richard F. Haynie, Vice-Chairman*  
Heathsville, VA 22473  
District II

*A. Joseph Self, Sr.*  
Callao, VA 22435  
District I

*James M. Long*  
Wicomico Church, VA 22579  
District III

*Thomas H. Tomlin*  
Wicomico Church, VA 22579  
District IV



**Northumberland County, Virginia**

**Board of Supervisors**  
P. O. Box 129 • 72 Monument Place  
Heathsville, Virginia 22473

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Kenneth D. Eades  
Heathsville, VA 22473  
804-580-7666 (Voice)  
804-580-7053 (Fax)  
keades@co.northumberland.va.us

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

W. Leslie Kilduff, Jr.  
804-435-0851 (Voice)  
804-435-0551 (Fax)

**A Resolution Declaring the Northern Neck of Virginia as  
A Heritage Area**

**Whereas**, the Northern Neck of Virginia is a place where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography, and

**Whereas**, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland have all supported this designation, and

**Whereas**, the Federal Legislators serving the Northern Neck have supported legislation that led to the adoption and approval of the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, and

**Whereas**, the National Park Service is currently conducting the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, and

**Whereas**, this Study surely will lead to the eventual designation of the Northern Neck of Virginia as a National Heritage Area, and

**Whereas**, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission will serve as the "Local Coordinating Entity" for such Designation, and

**Whereas**, it would be beneficial to the local and regional economy and beneficial to the protection of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to begin activities associated with this designation, and

**Whereas**, there is a recognition that eventual congressional designation will take time and time is of the essence,

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors would like the Northern Neck of Virginia designated as the Northern Neck Heritage Area, and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors requests the counties of King George, Lancaster, Richmond and Westmoreland to endorse this designation and agrees to participate in placing designation signage in its VDOT right-of-way.

ADOPTED:            March 8, 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth D. Eades", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth D. Eades, Clerk and County Administrator for  
the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors



## **A RESOLUTION**

### **ADOPTED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY**

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

#### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA AS A HERITAGE AREA**

WHEREAS, the Northern Neck of Virginia is a place where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland have all supported this designation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Legislators serving the Northern Neck have supported legislation that led to the adoption and approval of the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is currently conducting the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, and

WHEREAS, this Study surely will lead to the eventual designation of the Northern Neck of Virginia as a National Heritage Area, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission/Northern Neck Tourism Commission will serve as the "Local Coordinating Entity" for such Designation, and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the local and regional economy and beneficial to the protection of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to begin activities associated with this designation, and

WHEREAS, there is a recognition that eventual congressional designation will take time and time is of the essence,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Neck Tourism Commission declare the Northern Neck of Virginia as the Northern Neck Heritage Area and include this designation in its marketing efforts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NNTC requests the counties of King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland to endorse this designation and agree to participate in placing designation signage in its VDOT right-of-way.

Adopted: February 23, 2012

Attest:



Frank A. Pleva  
County Administrator

## APPENDIX F: SUMMARY OF MAY 2010 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTES

### BACKGROUND

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 directed the NPS to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Northern Neck of Virginia as a national heritage area. (Public Law 111-11) The legislation defined the study area as the peninsula of land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers including the counties of King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland and Lancaster, and other areas adjacent to or in the vicinity of those areas that have similar heritage aspects.

The National Park Service held five public scoping meetings, one in each county within the study area, from May 25-27, 2010. The meetings were organized with the cooperation of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC), which secured all meeting locations and assisted with publicizing the meeting through local media outlets and related websites. The NPS study team generated a press release that was used by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission and created a PEPC project website that included information about meeting times/locations and background material on national heritage areas and the feasibility study process (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=31631>).

The public schedule was as follows:

King George County: *Monday May 24, 3:00 PM in the Revercomb Administration Building, 10459 Courthouse Drive, King George County, Virginia.*

Westmoreland County: *Tuesday May 25, 3:00 PM in the A.T. Johnson Alumni Museum Auditorium, 18849 King's Highway, Montross, Virginia*

Richmond County: *Tuesday May 25, 7:00 PM in the Richmond County Courthouse, Public Meeting Room, 101 Court Circle, Warsaw, Virginia.*

Northumberland County: *Wednesday May 26, 3:00 PM in the Northumberland County Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville, Virginia.*

Lancaster County: *Wednesday May 26, 7:00 PM at the Belle Isle State Park, Belle Isle Visitor Center, 1632 Belle Isle Road, Lancaster, Virginia.*

The purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for citizens to learn about and comment on the Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study. The meetings were led by Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, NPS Northeast Region Planning Liaison, and Terry Moore, Chief of Planning and Compliance for the Northeast Region, NPS. Each meeting began with the introduction of all participants, followed by a brief presentation on the study process and concluded with an open discussion with all attendees welcome to participate. Public comments from each meeting were recorded in notes at the events.

## NOTES ON ATTENDANCE

All meetings were well attended with the largest attendance being at the three afternoon sessions. It was noted that the final meeting at Bell Isle State Park was a fantastic facility and landscape; however, it was inconvenient for most Lancaster County residents.

The District Representative from Congressman Rob Whitman's office, Joe Schumacher attended the King George meeting. He made a brief statement as part of his introduction and offered his support toward the study effort in conversation following the public meeting. The District representative from Senator Webb's Office, Charles (Charlie) Stanton, attended the subsequent four meetings and expressed the Senator's support for the study effort during his introduction at each meeting. Representatives of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission including Executive Director Jerry Davis and Lisa Hull attended all five meetings as did representatives of the Northern Neck Tourism Council Chairman Paul Reber of Stratford Hall and member Lucy Lawliss, Superintendent of George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Representatives from the Chesapeake Bay gateways attended all five meetings.

*Organizations businesses and interests represented at the meetings included the following:*

A.T. Johnson Museum	Master gardeners
Architect	Menokin
Art of Coffee	Northern Neck Farm Museum
Bay Design	Northern Neck Heritage Tours
Belle Isle State Park	Northern Neck Land Conservancy
Builder	Northern Neck News
Captain John Smith Chesapeake Water Trail	Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society
Century Farms	Northumberland County Administrator's Office
Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network	Northumberland Co. Economic Development Office
Coles Point Plantation	Northumberland County Historical Society
Colonial Beach Foundation	Northumberland County Library
Creek View Farm B&B	Open space and easement proponent
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP	Port Royal Historic District
Fredericksburg Freelance Star	Potomac Gateway Welcome Center
Friends of the Rappahannock	Preservation Virginia
George Washington Birthplace National Monument	Private citizens
Historic preservation consultants	Ralph Bunche High School
Homeschool community	Rappahannock Record
Hull Springs Farm	Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge
King George Co. Economic Development Office	Realtors
King George County Museum	Reedville Fisherman's Museum
King George County Parks and Recreation	Rice's Hotel/Hugelett's Tavern
King George County Planning Commission	Richmond County Administrator's Office
King George Farmers Market	Richmond County District Supervisor
King George Historical Society	Richmond County Museum
King George Journal	Ruritans of Richmond County
Lambs Creek Church	Star Spangled Banner NHT
Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce	Steamboat Era Museum
Lancaster County Administrator	Stratford Hall
Local artist	Tidewater Resource Conservation and
Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library	Development Council

Town of Kilmarnock Community  
Development  
Office  
U.S. Congressman Rob Whitman  
U.S. Senator Jim Webb  
VA DCR- Greenways and Trails  
VA State Parks DCR  
VDOT District Office Environmental Office  
Virginia Council on Indians  
Virginia Tech Extension

Watermen of Virginia  
*Wawaset* Steamboat  
Westmoreland County Administrator's Office  
Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors  
Westmoreland County Museum  
Westmoreland County School Board  
Westmoreland County Tourism Office  
Westmoreland State Park  
White Oak Civil War Museum

## KEY POINTS

**Support for NPS Involvement.** At each meeting, participants indicated their support for a unifying role of the National Park Service on the Northern Neck. However, they expressed concern over land acquisition. Participants brought up friendly condemnations that led to local displacement during the creation of Great Smokey Mountains National Park and the local controversy regarding removing land from agricultural production for the creation of the USFS Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The study team explained that national heritage area designation represents a community-based management approach that does not allow for land acquisition or federal regulations with regard to individual property rights.

**Support for broad study boundary.** Support for a broad study boundary was expressed at all five meetings. In general, participants liked the geographic scope as outlined in the study legislation. Many participants suggested areas for expansion including the rivers (Potomac and Rappahannock) and the rivers' shores opposite the Northern Neck. Other areas suggested to include in the study boundary were Stafford, Essex, Caroline, and Middlesex Counties and Tangier and Smith Islands. A participant at the meeting in King George County suggested that the study team look at the resources to the fall line where the tension between the natural geography and heritage is apparent. Another participant suggested the study team, "Look broadly! Assess both sides of the river."

**Include the Rivers.** At every venue, participants talked about the importance of the two main rivers to the history and evolution of the Northern Neck and raised concerns about how these resources would fit into the national heritage area. Many felt that the rivers should be included within the boundary of the national heritage area. Participants mentioned, "The lifeline was the rivers."

**Benefits of NHA Designation.** There were many questions about the potential benefits of an NHA designation. The study team explained that NHA designation is a locally driven process that offers communities the opportunity to collaborate toward mutual goals. In general, a common goal to most national heritage areas is to recognize and maintain the characteristics of their geographic area that makes it special. Federal funding provided through the NHA program helps local community stakeholder to meet the area's preservation, conservation, and economic development goals. In some cases, the use of federal funds may require compliance with federal laws including the National Historic Preservation Act. The study team suggested that a great way to investigate the benefits of NHA designation is to speak with representatives of other national heritage areas.

**Impacts on Property Usage.** There were a few questions during the course of the public meetings and a longer discussion at the meeting in Lancaster County regarding any restrictions on property use that might come along with NHA designation. There were also requests to clarify the difference between creating a unit of the National Park Service and designating a national heritage area. The study team explained that the designation of a national heritage area is not the creation of a unit of the National Park Service and does not allow for the acquisition of land using federal funds. Federal funds for a designated national heritage area are given to a local management entity to be used for historic preservation, heritage tourism and similar initiatives; funds are not permitted to be used for land acquisition.

A participant in the Northumberland County meeting suggested a public information session at which representatives of all of the federal land management agencies on the Northern Neck could explain the roles of NPS George Washington Birthplace National Historic Site, USFW Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and the potential Northern Neck National Heritage Area to interested community members.

**Address Northern Neck's Diverse Resources.** Many participants suggested resources for the study team to research. The suggestions were varied and reflected the diverse heritage and culture found on the Northern Neck including resources that related to the American Indians, the three US presidents who called the Northern Neck home, the agricultural heritage, steamboat history, and the range of industries including canning, fishing and boat building. Many participants also mentioned the rivers as the highways that connected many of these stories. Other resources included: Ferry Farm, Chatham, Monroe Birthplace, and fiddle music.

**Address the uniqueness of the Northern Neck.** Participants in each of the five meetings focused on the uniqueness of the Northern Neck. They mentioned that a continuity existed from the American Indians who first inhabited this land and met Captain John Smith, to the colonists who settled here and begot prominent families who founded the new nation, to the agriculture, watermen, steamboat and canning stories that continue today, all inextricably linked by the rivers and land. A participant at the King George County meeting stated that the Tappahannock, Port Royal and Dahlgren bridges are relatively new to the Northern Neck and for centuries, the "Neckers" were made to be self-sufficient since the only way in or out was by boat, by horse or to walk. This isolation created a self-sufficient and "clannish" community that is reflected by the people, customs and industry of the Northern Neck.

**General Questions about National Heritage Areas.** At each meeting, participants posed questions regarding existing national heritage areas including measures of success, the 15-year authorization limit, impact on land use and other regulations and impact on improved tourism. The study team suggested that the best way to learn about the successes and challenges of national heritage areas is to reach out to existing NHA communities such as *Silos and Smokestacks* in Iowa, an national heritage area that focuses on agricultural heritage, *Rivers of Steel* in Pennsylvania, an national heritage area that focuses on steel industry heritage and also successfully represents very diverse aspects of the related social, cultural and natural history, and *The Journey Through Hallowed Ground* in Virginia, a recently designated and already successful national heritage area stretching through three states and consisting of varied communities and resources.



## Media Coverage

“Northern Neck National Heritage feasibility study,” *Westmoreland News*, Montross, Virginia, Wednesday May 19, 2010

“The ‘Neck could be a national destination: National heritage designation meetings on tap this week,” *Northern Neck News*, May 26, 2010

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## APPENDIX G: OUTCOMES REPORT, 2018 SCHOLARS' ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY REPORT

### OVERVIEW

On Tuesday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 24, 2018, the National Park Service hosted a group of scholars with expertise relating to the history and resources of Virginia's Northern Neck for a roundtable discussion to inform the Northern Neck National Heritage Area (NHA) Feasibility Study. NPS facilitators shared discussion questions related to the NPS NHA criteria for evaluation with all participants prior to the roundtable and asked for the scholars to consider if the history and resources of the five county region identified as the Northern Neck study area (King George County, Westmoreland County, Northumberland County, Lancaster County, and Richmond County) meet NPS criteria for evaluation of potential national heritage areas. The questions were:

- *Question 1 (Criterion 1):* What makes the Northern Neck a nationally notable area? How does the five-county region (King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster) contribute to, or exemplify, a distinctive aspect of America's national story? How does the area's history and natural landscape fit into a broader idea of national heritage? What unique American story is being told here and why is the Northern Neck the place to tell that story?
- *Question 2 (Criterion 2):* What are examples of modern customs, traditions, and folklife that link the current Northern Neck landscape and people to the area's national importance (Criterion 1)? Consider populations and folkways that may be underrepresented in the overall historic narrative as well as predominant culture.
- *Question 3 (Criterion 5):* What tangible resources illustrate the distinct history and landscape of the study area and can support heritage tourism? How can visitors experience and understand the American historic, cultural, and natural significance of the Northern Neck (NHA Criterion 1) and the ongoing customs and traditions identified that illustrate it (Criterion 2)?

The day-and-a-half roundtable devoted sessions to individually examining each of the discussion questions and gathering perspectives from the scholars who represented the fields of Colonial Virginian history, African-American history, Rappahannock Tribe history, Virginian architectural history, prehistoric and historic Virginian archeology, prehistoric and historic archeology in the Northern Neck, and Eastern Virginian ethnography. Scholars were also encouraged to share additional information and sources with the NPS study team as follow-up to the roundtable.

### OUTCOMES SUMMARY

Overall, there was consensus that the Northern Neck study area meets the three NPS NHA criteria related to the roundtable discussion questions. Participants identified a national significant story related to an "Attitude of Independence" that runs through the history of the Northern Neck and is illustrated by existing historic and cultural resources, as well as continuing lifeways associated with agriculture, fishing, and connections to the land. While some themes associated with the Northern Neck are also evident in the larger Chesapeake region, roundtable participants felt that the Northern

Neck offered an unparalleled look at, and stronger connections between, resources and nationally significant aspects of American heritage.

Located between the Rappahannock River and the Potomac River, the Northern Neck was simultaneously connected to the outside world through water-based transportation and trade and geographically separated from the rest of Colonial Virginia and neighboring Maryland during the early years of English settlement. The peninsula's remoteness fostered a "persistence of place" that can be felt today and observed through surviving 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century buildings, agricultural traditions, fishing and oystering practices, and a largely undeveloped landscape retaining substantial archeological resources and containing relatively few modern intrusions. Many of these existing resources and traditional practices can be experienced by an interested public.

Stories of the Northern Neck's inhabitants, told through the interpretation of historic buildings and archeological sites, as well as the continuing agrarian and maritime lifeways, showcase the persistence and dedication to the ideals of independence, self-reliance, and self-identification that roundtable participants associated with the NHA study area. Colonial political leaders from the peninsula, which included Lee Brothers, George Washington, James Monroe, and James Madison, supported American independence and were crucial to the success of the Leedstown Resolves, the Declaration of Independence, and early years of the American Republic. The African Americans and Native Americans of the Northern Neck, who were not included in English settlers' conversations about equality and self-reliance, fought for and created avenues of social and economic independence through rich oral traditions, community supported access to education, the establishment of social institutions, and by embracing fishing and other commerce along the bordering rivers. While these groups were denied opportunities for advancement even into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, their struggles towards freedom and self-determination embody the striving for independence identified as the national theme associated with the Northern Neck study area.

## DISCUSSION OUTCOMES

### *Criterion 1: Nationally significant story and related themes*

- Attitude of Independence that begins with the Native Americans and persists throughout the 17th, 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries
  - Self-reliance
  - Self-identification
  - Education
  - Emancipation; rights of the individual
  - Separation – geography and political
  - Multicultural; 3 distinct co-located histories
  - Revolutionary Thought
- Sense of independence and geography fosters and supports the Persistence of Place
  - Undeveloped, few modern intrusions
  - Agricultural traditions
  - Maritime industry and lifeways
  - Chesapeake landscape
  - Waterways – connection and isolation

*Criterion 2: Customs, traditions, and folkways*

- Maritime practices and traditions
  - Fishspotting/Menhaden Fishery
  - Oyster tongings
  - Crabbing
  - Virginia Deadrise boat
  - Chanty singers
  - Canoe construction
  - Duck decoys
  - Waterman culture (VA Oyster Trail)
  - Fish processing plant in Reedville
  - Pound Netting
- Agricultural traditions
  - Family farming/smaller farms
  - Monocrop culture
  - Topography: mill ponds
  - Canning operations
- African American Baptist churches/Oral traditions
- Foodways: crab, oysters, saltfish
- Social events
  - Oyster roasts
  - Hunts and hunt clubs
  - Market days
  - Holly Ball (Kilmarnock)
  - White Stone Fire Department Water Fowl Show
- Interaction with physical landscape
  - Northern Neck Land Conservancy
  - Continuation of agriculture and fishing industries
  - Traditional clay sourcing for the Rappahannock Tribe
- Commemorations
  - Leedstown Resolves
  - Robert Carter III Deed of Gift commemoration
  - Burnt House Field Independence Day commemoration
  - Emancipation Celebration – April 3rd
- Rappahannock
  - Pow-wows
  - Using traditional clay sources
  - Return to the River youth program
- Language (Rappahannock and Northern Neck dialect)
- Persistent place names
- Regional identity – “Birthplace of Presidents,” “the Athens of the New World”

*Criterion 5: Tangible resources and visitor experiences*

- Intact landscapes/communities and living culture that dates back to early English settlement
  - Historic districts
    - Examples: Heathsville Historic District; Kinsale Historic District; Carter’s Creek Historic District; Lewisetta

- Architecture – Nationally significant architecture as well as the dwellings and associative resources of the smaller landowner survive on the landscape and tell many aspects of the story.
- May include privately owned 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century homes
  - Examples: Oak Grove; Ingleside Vineyard; Wirtland; Rocksbury; Bell House (NHL); Stratford; Mt. Airy; Cobbs Hall; Ditchley; Wilton; Rochester House; Claughton-Wright House, etc.
  - VDHR requires private properties with historic easements to open homes to the public at least once a year.
  - Northern Neck Garden Club – varying private homes opened to the public for visitation every spring.
- Archeological sites
  - Examples: Nomini Hall; Mantua; Mount Pleasant; Coen Hall Farm; Cliffs Plantation; James Monroe Birthplace; Corotoman; Nomini Plantation
  - Public archeology opportunities at early settlement sites and African American school sites
- Historic sites
  - Examples: George Washington Birthplace; James Monroe Birthplace; Stratford Hall; Belle Grove (James Madison’s Birthplace); Hughlett’s Tavern; Burnt House Field Cemetery; Belle Isle
- Churches
  - Examples: Yeocomico Church; Christ Church Museum; Nomini Church; Farham Church; 22 Baptist churches in Westmoreland County
- Local museums, many of which tell specific aspects of the national story
- Courthouses and courthouse greens – Colonial period through the early 20th century
- Virginia state parks (5) – all with historic building
- Education-related properties
  - Examples: AT Johnson School; Rosenwald School/Academy; Holley Graded School; Howland School
- Historic highway marker program
- NPS Chesapeake Office programs: Potomac Heritage Trail; Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Existing heritage tourism trails
  - Examples: Artisan Trail; Virginia Oyster Trail
- Landscapes: Fones Cliffs – purchased by Conservation Fund; Vorhees Nature Preserve; Stratford Cliffs; old growth forest at Caledon State Park
- Maritime/water Resources: Steamboat Wharfs, 2 operational Ferries, marine railways, seafood processing facilities; Reedville Ferry excursion to Tangier Island; lighthouse

## NEXT STEPS

The forthcoming Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study will incorporate input received during the October 2018 roundtable and the subsequent review of the roundtable summary report in the historic background/context and in the analysis of the 10 criteria used to measure a potential national heritage area’s suitability and feasibility. Once completed, the study will be transmitted to Congress to inform potential designation of a new heritage area.

## ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Marian Veney Ashton	Director, A T Johnson Museum
Michael Clem	Regional Archeologist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources-Eastern Region Preservation Office (Richmond)
Tom Davidson	Senior Curator, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (Retired)
Ethel Eaton	Senior Policy Analyst, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (Retired)
D. Brad Hatch	Archeologist, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
Barbara Heath	Professor of Anthropology, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Julia King	Professor of Anthropology, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Lawrence Latane III	Park Neighbor; former staff writer for <i>Richmond Times-Dispatch</i> ; owner of Blenheim Organic Gardens
Laura Lavernia	Project Review Architectural Historian, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Elizabeth Lipford	Preservation Specialist, Virginia Department of Historic Resources-Eastern Preservation Office
Lauren McMillan	Professor of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington
Stephen Potter	NPS National Capital Regional Archeologist Emeritus
Anne Richardson	Chief, Rappahannock Indian Tribe
<b>National Park Service Representatives</b>	
Melissa Cobern	Superintendent, NPS George Washington Birthplace National Monument
Patrick Gregerson	Chief of Planning, NPS Washington Office
Amy Muraca	Integrated Resources Program Manager, NPS George Washington Birthplace National Monument
Chuck Lawson	Project Manager, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning Division
Cynthia Nelson	Branch Chief, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning Division
Hilary Retseck	Cultural Resource Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning Division
Elizabeth Vehmeyer	Assistant Coordinator, NPS Washington Office National Heritage Areas Program

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## APPENDIX H: INTERAGENCY REVIEW RESPONSES



### COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

#### Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Mat Strickler  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

Julie V. Langan  
*Director*

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

July 17, 2019

Mr. Patrick Gregerson  
National Park Service  
Park Planning and Special Studies  
1849 C Street, NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Room 2227)  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: *Northern Neck National Heritage Area Feasibility Study*  
DHR File No. 2017-0914

Dear Mr. Gregerson:

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received for our review and comment the feasibility study referenced above prepared in May 2019. The revised interagency draft accurately reflects the discussions and recommendations of the October 2018 Scholars Roundtable in which DHR staff participated. The feasibility study concludes that the Northern Neck study area meets all ten national heritage area evaluation criteria for designation and is potentially eligible, according to National Park Service (NPS) guidelines, for national heritage area designation. DHR concurs with the study's findings.

Should the NPS decide to revise the study or add an appendix, DHR offers the following comments:

The overall history of the study area (Chapter 2) does not mention the Leedstown Resolves. We believe that a significant act of revolution against the Crown a full decade before the Revolution is notable and relevant given the theme of the potential heritage area.

The study mentions that three presidents who were born on the Northern Neck, but it is quite remarkable and gives added emphasis to clearly state that three of our first five presidents were born within a 20 mile radius.

With regard to the resource list in Appendix B, Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern in Heathsville is marked "No" for public access. It is our understanding that this property is regularly opened to the public and the foundation sponsors multiple events throughout the year.

There are two sites related to the Significance Statement that are not included in the resources list (Appendix B). The first site is Burnt House Field Cemetery in Westmoreland County where several members of the Lee family are buried, including Richard Henry Lee. This cemetery is accessible by public road. The second site is

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

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

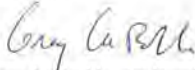
Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Northern Neck National Heritage Area  
DHR File No. 2017-0914  
July 17, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Westmoreland Courthouse. The old courthouse and courthouse green are now operated by the Westmoreland County Museum and the building is open to the public as an exhibit space and research library.

Thank you for offering DHR an opportunity to comment on the feasibility study. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 482-6103 or [gregory.labudde@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:gregory.labudde@dhr.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,



Greg LaBudde, Archaeologist  
Review and Compliance Division

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
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Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391



## United States Department of the Interior



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
336 Wilna Rd., Warsaw, VA 22572  
Phone: (804) 333-1470 ext. 115, Fax: (804) 333-3396

July 2, 2019

Patrick Gregerson  
Chief, Park Planning and Special Studies Division  
National Park Service  
Park Planning Special Studies  
1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Patrick Gregerson,

The Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located predominantly on the Northern Neck, offers unique natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources and I am pleased to support the findings of the feasibility study for the Northern Neck National Heritage Area.

The Rappahannock River Valley NWR, one of the Refuges administered as part of the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex, consists of over 9,030 acres. Refuge units are located in Essex, King George, Caroline, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties and include fresh water tidal marsh, forest swamp, upland deciduous forest, mixed pine forest, and grassland habitats.

The Refuge offers numerous recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, and access for canoe and kayaking. The Refuge also has many cultural and historic sites, with evidence of colonial settlements as well as being part of the Rappahannock Indigenous Cultural Landscape. As the refuge continues to grow, it will make increasing contributions to the local culture and economy as we work with partners to conserve natural resources, improve water quality, and provide compatible, wildlife dependent recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The Northern Neck is truly a distinct landscape reminiscence of times past and I am pleased to support the potential designation. I can be reached by telephone at (804) 333-1470 ext. 11 or by email at [Kendra\\_Pednault@fws.gov](mailto:Kendra_Pednault@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Kendra Pednault  
Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Project Leader

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## APPENDIX I: REFERENCES

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As the nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NORTHERN NECK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA | FEASIBILITY STUDY

JUNE 2020

