

"Holly Brook"  
Eastville Vicinity  
Northampton County, Virginia

HABS No. 593  
Va-

HABS  
VA  
66-EAST.V,  
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Washington Office, Division of Design and Construction  
Washington 25, D. C.

"Holly Brook"  
Eastville Vicinity  
Northampton County, Virginia

HABS No. 593  
Va-

HABS  
VA  
66-EAST.V.  
5.

Location: Eastville Vicinity, Northampton County, Virginia (2 miles North of Town on U. S. 13).

Present Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Littleton H. Mears

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: Modest in comparison with many of its contemporaries, "Holly Brook" is an interesting farm house exhibiting two brick ends, excellent proportions and some notable refinements.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner and builder seems to have been James Taylor who first dignified the property with a name. It has been in the Mears family since 1899 and has been owned by the present generation since 1942.
2. Date of erection: Probably Pre-Revolutionary.
3. Architect, builder, supplies: Local
4. Original plans, construction, etc: Unknown
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Brick ends were stuccoed at some unknown date. The kitchen wing is probably not original and has been considerably altered through the years. An old detached kitchen has been remodeled to become a garage with quarters above.

The late Ralph T. Whitelaw, authority on the Eastern Shore, was of the belief that the present extension to the north, now a library, had originally been a porch similar to that found at the south entrance. In recent years, however, a diary has come to light telling how this north addition served as a schoolroom during the early 19th century. Previously it had been a freestanding structure used as a doctor's

VA.  
66-EAST.V  
5

office on an adjoining plantation. Construction work on "Holly Brook" revealed how this small gabled building had been spiked against the north facade.

The original appearance of both the exterior and interior of "Holly Brook" are well preserved. A minor alteration in the plan is discussed in Part II below.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Condition of Fabric: Excellent condition

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Height: Two and a half stories with cellar, in the west end of which is a rectangular pit probably used for storage of ice.
2. Foundations: Brick, laid in Flemish bond.
3. Wall construction: Brick ends; north and south wall hewn timber frame with beaded clapboards.
4. Bulkhead: Porch eaves terminated by small scroll pattined like that of cornice; bulkhead has unusual pent roof.
5. Chimneys: Semi-outside end chimneys in main block.
6. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance features "Huguenot" doors of six panels each; large-scale door from School-room to Garden, eight panels.
  - b. Nine light over six light double hung windows above; nine over nine below; with fixed slat shutters.
7. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, wood shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves with row of shaped modillions; scrolled terminals.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor plans: Twin doors entered into Parlor and dining room respectively. A small entry has since been formed by right hand partition. Stairway is enclosed and entered from the rear of both rooms. Bedrooms

VA  
66-EAST  
5

reflect arrangement below stairs with the exception of a small hall room, now bath. Attic stair is entered from rear of right bedroom.

2. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster and wallpaper.
3. Doorways and doors: Six and four panel doors on interior.
4. Trim: First floor rooms have end walls fully paneled to ceiling. Parlor mantel has shelf with row of dentils beneath while elsewhere there is wainscoting to chair rail. There is a simple architrave opening in dining room and beaded chair rails. In both rooms mantel framing with deep reveals suggest original existence of marble facings.
5. Hardware: H. hinges original, but for most part locks have been replaced.
6. Lighting: Electric
7. Heating: Central heating, plus original fire places.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Long axis of house runs east and west overlooking flat fields and hedge rows.
2. Enclosures: White picket fence encloses well landscaped garden of boxwood, camelias, etc., developed since 1942. Adjoining garden is small graveyard, containing tombstone in memory of one-time tutor in the household.
3. Outbuildings: Outside kitchen and smoke house to eastward.
4. Walks, driveways, etc.: Gravel entrance road.
5. Landscaping: Fine informal effect - lawn, trees, shrubs, and screen along edge of highway.

References: Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, Richmond, Virginia, Virginia Historical Society, 1951, Volume One, pp. 315-17. Conversations with Mrs. Mears.

Prepared by: Worth Bailey, HABS National Park Service, June, 1960

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Robert E. Smith*  
Acting Chief Architect

Date 1-17-61