



North River Historic Homes Water Trails



Toddsbury
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GIS/GPS
North River Project
Rappahannock Tech Prep

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Exchange

Coordinates: N 37° 25.72
W 76° 27.26

Exchange was a part of the old Grant. Three tombstones on the property date back to 1743. Famous artist Hubard, of Gloucester, painted a marvelous portrait of Elizabeth Mitchie in Exchange, which was removed at a later date.

Elmington

Coordinates: N 37° 25.44
W 76° 27.26

Elmington was part of the old Gates grant. A tobacco house settled on this land, providing trade with neighboring counties. The present house was built in 1848 under John Prosser Tabb. During the Civil War Tabb sold the house to James M. Talbot, of Richmond, for confederate money. The house was the scene for best selling novel Don Miff, written by Virginius Dabney. Author/Novelist Thomas Dixon resided in the house during the 1900s. He remodeled the house, temporarily naming it Dixondale.

Burgh Westra

Coordinates: N 37° 25.36
W 76° 27.98

Burgh Westra was built by Warner Throckmorton Taliaferro in 1847. The house was used as a hospital in the Civil War.

Belleville

Coordinates: N 37° 24.70
W 76° 26.39

Belleville was built on the land obtained by John Boswell and John Booth, wholesale tobacco buyers, in the 17th century. They had a tobacco export business between Gloucester and London. While under Warner Taliaferro, Belleville reached its production peak with a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, and a weaving house constructing business on its land. The Booths' tombs may still be seen on Belleville's property today.

Waverly

Coordinates: N 37° 29.08
W 76° 20.69

Waverly was built by Captain Philip Tabb, of Toddsbury, for his son Philip Edward Tabb. An unknown soldier, who surrendered during the Civil War, went to Waverly to study medicine, and became known as "Doctor Willie" throughout the nation. Tombs on this site indicate there were other houses.

Newstead

Coordinates: N 37° 26.36
W 76° 26.89

This property was built by John Henry Tabb. It was completed in 1856 on his part of Toddsbury.

Toddsbury

Coordinates: N 37° 26.10
W 76° 27.12

The oldest part of the Toddsbury house was built in 1658, and was enlarged in 1690, 1720, and 1784. The present day dining room was added in 1784 where it is possible to see one brick in the wall dated with initials P.T., possibly meaning Philip Tabb. This property has been occupied since 1658.

Ditchley

Coordinates: N 37° 24.55
W 76° 25.78

Ditchley was originally owned by the Singletons, who had originally named it Bloomsbury. In 1862, Professor Edwin Taliaferro bought and restored the house, naming it Miramer, but the house burned to the ground before he moved in. In 1863, Dr. John Prosser Tabb built a home on the site, naming the new home Ditchley. Today, you are able to view the North River clearly from the home's back porch.

Reference: Farrar, Emmie Ferguson. *Old Virginia Homes*. New York : Bonanza Books, 1955.

In order to provide safeguards to home owners who have allowed their residents to be published in the brochure, please do not attempt to gain access to these properties or dock your boat on their piers. Thank you.

Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Brochure created by Ashley Miller, Rappahannock Tech Prep Consortium Administrative Assistant and RCC student, 2005.