

PLACES OF INTEREST

Places of Interest You Might Enjoy Visiting While in Gloucester

Historic Gloucester Village & Main Street

6509 Main Street
gloucestermainstreet.com

The buildings of the Court Circle at the north end of Gloucester's Main Street are classic examples of an early Virginia government seat and village. The 1776 Colonial Courthouse is still in use today, and the 1823 Debtor's Prison is one of only three remaining in the state. In the late 1920s, the newly formed Garden Club of Gloucester advocated and raised funds for the construction of the brick wall that surrounds the Court Circle. Gloucester's Main Street remains a vibrant village today with homes, shops, restaurants, and art including multiple sculptures and murals celebrating Gloucester's heritage and culture.



Chesapeake Bay-Friendly Teaching Gardens at Brent & Becky's Bulbs

7900 Daffodil Lane
brentandbeckysbulbs.com

This 8+ acre garden contains more than 20 themed "rooms" to demonstrate gardening that honors the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



Center for Archaeology, Preservation & Education (C.A.P.E.)

6783 Main Street
fairfieldfoundation.org

C.A.P.E. is the Fairfield Foundation's education and preservation center for historic sites in the Middle Peninsula region. In 2018, the Fairfield Foundation restored the 1930 Edge Hill Service Station which now serves as its headquarters and anchors the south end of Gloucester's historic Main Street. Fairfield's historic sites in Gloucester include Fairfield Archaeology Park, Rosewell Ruins (c. 1725), Timberneck House (c. 1793), and Walter Reed's Birthplace (c. 1821). Visitors can tour the archaeological collections and exhibits on local excavations and enjoy interpretive signs, restored gas pumps, a large granite map of Gloucester in 1912, and the neighboring Thomas Calhoun Walker and Iconic Women of Gloucester murals.



Edgehill House

6805 Main Street | edgehillhouse.org

Built around 1750 as a family home on top of Edge Hill and moved down the hill to its current location in 1833. It was set on a foundation to accommodate a blacksmith shop on the ground level. Subsequently, it housed a carriage shop, then a few small businesses. The Gloucester Woman's Club purchased the building on nine acres in 1913.



Nuttall Country Store

6495 Ware Neck Road | nuttallstore.com

Founded in 1877, this general store thrived for generations because of its profitable ties connecting the nearby Hockley Wharf to the steamship lines serving the Chesapeake Bay. A post office was added in the 1880s. Nuttall's remains in operation as a general store, neighborhood lunch spot, and post office, serving as a strong community presence in Ware Neck. It is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



Rosewell

5113 Old Rosewell Lane | rosewell.org

Built in 1725 by Mann Page, Rosewell was the birthplace of Virginia Governor John Page and an architectural inspiration to Thomas Jefferson, a frequent visitor. Ravaged by fire in 1916, the ruins stand today as a fine example of 18th-century craftsmanship.



Walter Reed Birthplace

4021 Hickory Fork Road
fairfieldfoundation.org

Walter Reed Birthplace is a historic home located near Belroi in Gloucester. Built in 1821, the birthplace represents a rare surviving example of a small, plain vernacular house that was once very common throughout Tidewater Virginia. This modest dwelling contains three rooms and is of a type often used by white professionals, craftsmen, and small land-owning farmers in the first half of the 19th century. The house was restored in 1927 and again in 1970. It was the birthplace of Dr. Walter Reed.



Woodville Rosenwald School

4310 G.W. Memorial Hwy
woodvilleroosenwaldschool.com

The Woodville School, built in 1923 with contributions from Gloucester's African Community, the Julius Rosenwald Fund, and the School Board, was one of six Rosenwald schools in Gloucester for African American children. Now restored, the Woodville School ensures that the history of African American education and the struggle for quality education by Gloucester's African American community will be remembered.



For additional information, please use the QR code here or pick up a complimentary copy of the Historic Garden Week Guidebook which is available at local merchants.



Tour proceeds support the restoration of Virginia's historic landscapes, research fellowships to document historic site landscapes, and from 2016-2020, projects to enhance Virginia State Parks.

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GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Historic Garden Week

hosted by the



Coreopsis Small

SATURDAY | APRIL 26, 2025
10:00am to 5:00pm

Tickets available online only
www.vagardenweek.org/tickets

GLOUCESTER MATHEWS TOUR

This year’s tour highlights Gloucester county’s history with three houses, a museum and much more. History lovers will enjoy Historic Gloucester Village and Main Street, where classic examples of an early Virginia government and village, including sculptures and murals that highlight “Iconic Women of Gloucester” and “Thomas Calhoun Walker” are present. Thomas Calhoun Walker’s home, currently under renovation by Hampton University, is also on Main Street. The Fairfield Foundation’s center for historic sites anchors the south end of Main Street and the Edge Hill House will be open with docents. Nuttall’s County Store is a favorite stop for many visitors to Gloucester who are looking for a homemade lunch and the nostalgia of a small town. Gloucester’s recently renovated Woodville Rosenwald School will also open for visitors with docents on site.

Many thanks to our volunteers, guidebook advertisers, sponsors, community businesses and historic sites and especially our homeowners for sharing the history and beauty of their homes.

Linda Farr, Tour Co-Chair
Bambi Thompson, Tour Co-Chair

Tickets:

- ♦ Tickets are **\$50.00** in advance and **\$60.00** on tour day. Available only vagardenweek.org. Ticket includes admission to (3) homes and (1) museum

Lunch:

- ♦ Box lunches are available directly from **Nuttall’s Country Store** for \$18. Available by pre-order and pre-payments only. Order deadline is April 22, 2025. Contact Nuttall Country Store at nuttallstore@gmail.com or 804-693-3067. Box lunches will be available for pick-up at the Blythelea and Exchange Parking Area.
- ♦ Refreshments are complimentary and served at Holly Knoll from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m

Facilities:

- ♦ Facilities are available at Blythelea and Exchange Parking Area and at Holly Knoll.
- ♦ Onsite parking at Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester (6894 Main Street)

Special Activities:

- ♦ Dan Lonergan, Arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts, will be at Exchange from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free tree seedlings will be distributed.
- ♦ Master Gardener tours in the gardens at Brent and Becky’s, 7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester 804-693-3996 or brentandbeckysbulbs.com.
- ♦ Virginia Native Plant Society will be on site at Blythelea.

Parking:

- ♦ Parking for Blythelea and Exchange is on Hickston Lane, parking for Holly Knoll is onsite.

Important Information:

- ♦ This tour involves considerable walking. Not suitable for persons who are handicapped. Ticket includes admission to 3 homes and 1 museum



Icons from l to r: waterfront, gardens lovers, history lovers, art lovers, stairs, no handicap access

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f Historic Garden Week in Gloucester VA
@historicgardenweekgloucester

HOLLY KNOLL



Nestled in the heart of Gloucester County, Holly Knoll, also known as The Moton Center, is a historic property that has become a beacon of community, leadership development, and historical preservation. The home was built in 1935 for Dr. Robert Russa Moton, the second president of the Tuskegee Institute. In partnership with Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) a Georgian style home was built where Dr. Moton could meet with and mentor leaders as they worked toward racial equality. Leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and John L. Lewis spent time there brainstorming strategies for the rapidly growing civil rights movement.

In 2005, James and Kay Coles purchased Holly Knoll and undertook a full renovation of the house, furnishing it with period-appropriate pieces. Rocking chairs line the long porch on the river-side of the house that overlooks the York River. It is believed that Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote a portion of his “I Have a Dream” speech under the live oak near the porch. The James family established The Gloucester Institute at Holly Knoll with a mission to protect and preserve Dr. Moton’s legacy and historic home while training the next generation of American leadership by empowering black youth with the skills they need to be effective change agents.

The Gloucester Institute, Owner



BLYTHELEA



Blythelea, meaning pleasant meadow, sits on a peninsula between Toddsbury and Elmington Creeks facing the North River. Back in the 17th and 18th centuries Blythelea was part of the Toddsbury and then the Exchange estates. Sitting on the banks of the North River the property enjoys expansive views of the River, which the current owners have maximized by constructing a four season sunroom so that they may enjoy the river views year round.

The home was originally a cinder block home built in 1947 but earlier structures on the property included the farrier shop for Exchange and according to neighboring landowners another smaller house called Little Exchange. The current house now has a colonial look with white beaded siding, shutters and double hung windows. The interior is a mix of traditional and transitional styles filled with natural light.

Surrounding the house there are mature trees, landscaping and lawns with perennials and bulbs bringing color to the garden. As the property was once part of a daffodil farm there are many historic daffodil cultivars dating back to the 1900’s still in the gardens. On the river side of the home, there are two terraces – one just off of the sunroom and one at the entry to the pier and dock, both offer lovely outdoor spaces for the homeowners.

Katherine and Ronald Haggerty, Owners



EXCHANGE



Exchange is an 18th century house built by the Buckner Family on land deeded to Thomas Gates in 1682. The house sits perpendicular to the North River and over the years the house has been expanded and remodeled but it retains its beaded clapboard exterior, bricked gable ends laid in Flemish bond, pegged construction and a Welsh slate roof. Double elm front doors access the two-story foyer, with the original staircase, which leads to the second floor. The ceilings are eleven feet high, and the rooms are beautifully proportioned. Much of the flooring and interior woodwork are original and the owner’s collection of inherited and collected furniture complements the house’s original style.

Two 18th century outbuildings, a charming garconniere and a smokehouse, flank a carport addition. Mature trees and boxwoods provide a backdrop for the gardens, which includes a cottage garden near the front portico, a shade garden under an enormous walnut tree near the kitchen wing and multiple flower beds between the main house and the pool. There are many hellebores and daylilies on the property along with over 400 varieties of daffodils, many of which came from the owner’s former home, a tribute to the lifelong love of gardening of the current owners.

Genie and Chris Applegate, Owners



FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF GLOUCESTER



The Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester’s newest exhibit, **Everyday People: Through Freedom’s Lens, An Exhibition of Rare Photographs by Freedom B. Goode**, is presented by the Cook Foundation in collaboration with the Fairfield Foundation. It features the photographs of Freedom B. Goode, a local leader and documentarian, and explores the history of civil rights in rural Virginia. Goode’s photographs capture the resilience, courage and grassroots leadership of Gloucester’s African American citizens as they navigated immense social changes, from segregated schools and businesses to the slow process of integration. He is part of a strong legacy of African American leaders in Gloucester including Thomas Calhoun (TC) Walker, a pioneering African American attorney, Dr. Robert Russa Moton at Holly Knoll, and Irene Morgan, whose refusal to give up her seat on a Greyhound bus led to the United States Supreme Court striking down Virginia’s state law enforcing segregation on interstate buses. Through this exhibit, touring the Woodville School (see Places of Interest) and Holly Knoll, and visiting murals on Historic Main Street celebrating TC Walker and Irene Morgan, visitors can experience Gloucester’s significant history in the Civil Rights movement.

