

VLR - 9/15/92  
NRHP - 4/7/95

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architecture classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chuckatuck Historic District

other names/site number VDHR File No. 133-692

2. Location

street & number Jct. of SR 10/32 and SR 125 not for publication N/A  
city or town Suffolk vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Suffolk (independent code 800 zip code 23432  
city)

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julie O. Hasmick 3-1-95  
Signature of certifying official Date  
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SURVEY & REGISTER  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>51</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>53</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 9

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

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **DOMESTIC** Sub: **Single dwelling**

**RELIGION** Religious structure

**COMMERCE** Store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **DOMESTIC** Sub: **Single dwelling**

**RELIGION** Religious structure

**COMMERCE** Store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

**EARLY REPUBLIC:** Federal

**LATE VICTORIAN:** Queen Anne

**LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:** Colonial Revival  
Classical Revival

**LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:** Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof METAL

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1780-1944

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**  20 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	359220	4080590	2	18	359280 4080580
3	18	359780	4080340	4	18	359760 4080340

x  See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title  William T. Frazier/Ann McCleary/Nancy Shareff   
organization  Frazier Associates  date  July 1992   
street & number  213 North Augusta Street  telephone  703-886-6230   
city or town  Staunton  state  VA  zip code  24401

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).  
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.  
Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Chuckatuck Historic District  
City of Suffolk, Virginia

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### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Chuckatuck Historic District is located at the intersection of State Route 10/32 (Kings Highway) and State Route 125 (Godwin Boulevard) in the northern section of the city of Suffolk (former Nansemond County). It includes sixty-nine buildings and structures. Of these, sixty-two are contributing and seven are noncontributing. A variety of styles are present in Chuckatuck indicating continuous growth throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the greatest growth period occurring around the turn of the century. Chuckatuck has a village atmosphere with various residences interspersed among a church and commercial establishments. Most houses have similar setbacks and are on lots with mature landscaping.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries Chuckatuck was a crossroads trading center and there are several early structures with various typical plan types remaining from this period. The Saunders House (133-123) at 133 King's Highway and the Godwin-Knight House (113-118, National Register) at 140 King's Highway were built between 1780 and 1820. The Sanders House was originally a 1 1/2 story dwelling with a side-passage, double-pile plan with two exterior end chimneys. In 1927 it was extensively remolded and most of its outbuildings date from that period as well. The Godwin-Knight House, boyhood home of former Virginia Governor Mills Godwin, began as a 2 1/2-story frame dwelling with a typical Tidewater side-passage, double-pile plan with two exterior end chimneys. At the turn of the century the residence was updated in the then popular Queen Anne style with a new corner turret, wrap-around front porch, and large dormer balcony. The property retains its extensive collection of outbuildings including an early frame barn and kitchen (now a garage) as well as the turn-of-the-century generator house, brick smokehouse, and summer kitchen. Few other properties in the district retain such examples of domestic outbuildings.

The Howell House (133-119) at 132 King's Highway and the Cannon House (133-120) at 120 King's Highway were built in the early part of the nineteenth century. While both dwellings are Federal style, 2 1/2-story, three-bay buildings, the Cannon House has a front gable and a central entry portico. Its unusual plan is composed of a full-width entry hall with its staircase placed in the middle of the interior wall behind which are two large connecting parlors, each with a fireplace on the north rear wall. The Howell House has a typical side-passage, double-pile plan with two exterior end chimneys on the east side. The house has seen extensive remodelings throughout the years and the full-width porch probably dates from this century.

As the community grew in the mid-nineteenth century a Methodist church was erected on King's Highway. It was rebuilt to its present form in 1893 and is known as the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church (133-110). The main block of the frame church is a classical form with a front, pedimented gable containing a large lunette window. Other elements include a corner, three-story, square steeple with a steeply pitched hipped roof and a rear apse. A two-story, hip-roofed fellowship hall is a recent addition to the east side of the church.

While all of the small-scaled vernacular structures of the early settlement era have long since disappeared, Chuckatuck has several vernacular dwellings from the early twentieth century.

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An example of a vernacular I-house with a central hall plan type can be found at 172 King's Highway (133-114). This frame structure has two stories, three bays, and a gable roof. The vernacular porch has Roman Doric columns and the house has exposed rafters and two interior corbeled flues. Another example can be found at 200 King's Highway (133-112). This frame 1 1/2-story, three-bay dwelling has a cross-gable roof and a full-width porch with Roman Doric columns and exposed rafters.

Several vernacular Queen Anne houses were also built between 1890 and 1920. The W. C. Moore House (133-124) on King's Highway consists of a traditional side-passage, double-pile plan within a rectangular form capped by a gable roof. Its Queen Anne features are simply attached to this basic form and include a wraparound porch and a second-story, front projecting tower bay. This element has an unusual steeple-like hipped roof. Another vernacular Queen Anne house located at 152 King's Highway (133-117) also exhibits simple forms with Victorian era decoration. The dwelling has a cross gable roof with a projecting gable end facade containing a side-passage plan. The orderly front elevation contains a tripartite decorate gable window, a pierced bargeboard, and a wraparound front porch. Neither of these examples reflects the sophisticated Queen Anne designs found in more urban areas and even as close as neighboring Smithfield.

Another growth period in Chuckatuck was during the early to mid-twentieth century. The surrounding agricultural base which was expanding with mechanization, and Nansemond County's consolidated school complexes in the 1920s (one of which was located in Chuckatuck), both affected the village. As more jobs were created, new housing was built during this era. The architectural forms and styles continued to break from traditional earlier Tidewater examples and reflected new national building tastes found in magazines and catalogues of the period.

The result in Chuckatuck was the building of several examples of the new American Foursquare, Bungalow, and Colonial Revival styles. Generally the Foursquares as demonstrated in the dwelling at 5968 Godwin Boulevard (133-138), are two-story, three-bay, square-proportioned frame structures with hipped roofs and one-story, front porches. Most of the Bungalows are 1 1/2-story, three-bay structures with gable roofs (and often gable fronts). Front porches are incorporated frequently under the main roof structure. A simple example of this style can be found at 260 King's Highway (133-129). Several of these small bungalows were constructed in the early twentieth century by the Lone Star Cement Company to house their employees. A larger bungalow is the original example at 153 King's Highway, which has a shed-roofed porch supported by square columns resting on brick bases. It also has the bungalow trademark of a large shed-roofed dormer above the front porch.

The Colonial Revival-styled residences reflect back loosely to earlier Tidewater forms and for the most part are characterized by symmetrical facades, gable roofs, and small-paned windows. One of the larger Colonial Revival houses was built for former Governor of Virginia Mills Godwin at 161 King's Highway (133-108). This two-story, brick structure has a central hall-plan, three bays, a gable roof, and a semicircular classical portico. A frame Colonial Revival-styled dwelling with similar features was constructed on the lot at 141 King's Highway (133-107). This house also has two stories, three bays, a gable roof, and a classically inspired entry porch with an arched pediment and molded cornice.

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There are several contributing commercial buildings within the boundaries of the Chuckatuck Historic District. The Gwaltney Store (133-70), located on the corner of Kings Highway and Godwin Boulevard was built originally as a dwelling in the early nineteenth century and later converted into a store. It is a two-story, frame building with a tall rear chimney, arched attic window, shed-roofed porch with a scalloped cornice, and a two-story addition. This building is an early and rare example of a converted dwelling to a store. The frame garage/workshop located at 6019 Godwin Boulevard (133-135), was constructed between 1900 and 1925. This building has a false front, triple front window, two front entrances, and a shed-roofed hood across the facade.

**BUILDING INVENTORY**

(\* indicates noncontributing properties)

**Godwin Boulevard**

5968 Godwin Blvd.

133-138: Residential; ca. 1910-1930; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, hipped roof; vernacular porch; end flue; American Foursquare.  
-Frame garage.

5988 Godwin Blvd.

133-675: Residential; ca. 1920-1940; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 story; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; vernacular porch; vernacular bungalow dwelling.  
-Frame shed.

5989 Godwin Blvd.

133-137: Residential; ca. 1910-1925; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 2-bay, asymmetrical facade; composition shingle, hipped roof; Colonial Revival portico with arched gable and plain porch; bay window; end flues; enclosed south porch; vernacular.  
\*noncontributing concrete block garage.

5990 Godwin Blvd.

\*Residential; ca. 1945-1960; 1 1/2 stories; brick dwelling; noncontributing.

5996 Godwin Blvd., Gwaltney Store

133-70: Residential; 1810-1840; converted from dwelling to a store later in nineteenth century; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 4-bay, gable front facade; composition shingle, front gable roof; shed-roofed front overhang with a scalloped cornice that is supported by square posts; large display windows; tall, rear, corbeled chimney; 2-story side addition; Federal.

5999 Godwin Blvd., Spady House

133-35: Residential; ca. 1820-1840; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, asymmetrical facade; 2 south end chimneys; sawn balustrade; double-door front entrance; shed-roofed porch with square posts; Federal.

6019 Godwin Blvd.

133-135: Commercial; ca. 1900-1925; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 story; 5-bay, asymmetrical facade; metal gable roof; shed roof supported by plain trusses across front; parapet; 2-bay rear addition; vernacular commercial.

6021 Godwin Blvd.

133-627: Residential; ca. 1920-1940; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, asymmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; vernacular porch; large front shed dormer; exterior end flue; Bungalow cottage.

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6023 Godwin Blvd.

133-657: Residential; ca. 1920-1940; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, asymmetrical facade; metal gable roof; vernacular Bungalow porch; front gable dormer with 3 windows; central flue; 1-story rear addition; vernacular Bungalow.

\*noncontributing concrete block garage.

King's Highway

109 King's Highway, Chuckatuck Post Office

\*Post Office; ca. 1970-1980; 1-story, brick building; noncontributing.

115 King's Highway, W. C. Moore House

133-124: Residential; ca. 1908; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 2-bay, asymmetrical facade; slate gable roof with cross gable; wraparound porch with Ionic columns; arched window in gable; west second-story tower with kicked and pointed roof; vernacular Queen Anne; Moore ran a general store on the site of the present post office.

-Frame kitchen.

-Frame smokehouse.

120 King's Highway, Cannon House

133-120: Residential; ca. 1825-1850; wood frame with artificial siding; 2 1/2 stories; 3-bay; raised basement; 2 north shouldered chimneys; remodeled south entrance porch and east porch; transom and sidelights on south entrance; second-level entrance has sidelights; Federal.

132 King's Highway, Howell House

133-119: Residential; ca. 1810-1830; wood frame with artificial siding; 2 1/2 stories, 3-bay facade; remodeled south porch; east shouldered corbeled chimneys; Federal.

-Frame smokehouse.

133 King's Highway, Saunders House

133-123: Residential; ca. 1780-1820; remodeled ca. 1920-1930; wood frame with beaded weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 5-bay, symmetrical facade; elaborately detailed wraparound porch with turned posts and newels; 2 shouldered end chimneys; 2 gabled dormers; 1 large shed dormer; northwest carport connected to the porch; vernacular.

-Frame garage.

-Wood shed.

-Smokehouse.

-Frame building containing gardener's house/kitchen/maid's quarters.

140 King's Highway, Godwin-Knight House

133-118: Residential; ca. 1780-1920; remodeled around 1890-1900; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 1/2 stories; 3-bay, asymmetrical facade; wraparound porch on brick piers with Doric columns and turned balustrade; southeast circular tower clad in various shaped shingles with diamond patterned overlay at the top; arched colored glass windows; dentiled cornice; Federal and Queen Anne. Boyhood home of Mills Godwin former Governor of Virginia. Listed individually on the National Register.

-Brick smokehouse.

-Frame summer kitchen.

-Chicken house.

-Chicken house.

-Woodshed/Delco House.

-Garage.

-Barn.

-Well.

141 King's Highway

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133-107: Residential; ca. 1933; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gabled roof; Colonial Revival porch with molded cornice and arched pediment; central flue; side and rear porches; Colonial Revival; built for principal of Chuckatuck High School.  
-Frame garage.

152 King's Highway

133-117: Residential; ca. 1890-1915; wood frame with artificial siding; 2 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; decorated vernacular wraparound porch with turned posts and balusters and cornice with dentils; tripartite window with decorative pedimented surround with dentils; sidelights and transom; vernacular Queen Anne. Built for Gilliam Family.

153 King's Highway

133-109: Residential; ca. 1915-1930; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; Bungalow porch; decorative roof trusses; tall corbeled end flue; Bungalow.  
\*noncontributing concrete block garage.

160 King's Highway, Gilliam House

133-116: Residential; ca. 1901; wood frame with artificial siding; 2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, pyramidal roof; wraparound porch with Roman Doric columns; corbeled flue; front door has oval beveled glass with sidelights and transom; American Foursquare.

161 King's Highway

133-108: Residential; ca. 1930-1940; all stretcher bond brick; 2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; semicircular classical portico with Ionic columns; dentiled entry with pilasters; 1-story wings; Colonial Revival. Built for Mills Godwin, former Governor of Virginia.  
-Brick garage.

168 King's Highway

\*Residential; ca. 1950-1970; 1-story, brick dwelling; noncontributing.

172 King's Highway

133-114: Residential; ca. 1900-1920; wood frame with artificial siding; 2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; screened vernacular porch; 2 interior corbeled flues; exposed rafter ends.  
-Vernacular frame garage.

176 King's Highway

133-113: Residential; ca. 1900-1925; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 3-bay, asymmetrical facade; composition shingle, hipped roof; vernacular porch with Roman Doric columns; corbeled interior flue; American Foursquare.  
-Shed-roofed garage.

200 King's Highway

133-112: Residential; ca. 1900-1920; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; vernacular porch with exposed rafters; corbeled flue; 3 windows in cross gable; exposed rafters; vernacular.

202 King's Highway, W.G. Saunder's House

133-111: Residential; ca. 1910-1925; wood frame with artificial siding; 2 stories; 4-bay, asymmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; remodeled classical porch; shed-roofed ell; shouldered end chimney; half lunettes in the gabled ends; vernacular Colonial Revival. Later used as a parsonage for Oakland Christian Church until sold in 1972.  
-Frame garage.  
-Log corner.

King's Highway, Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church

133-110: Church; ca. 1850; remodeled ca. 1893; 1 story; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; central gable pierced by a fanlight; 2 projecting bays; steeple with a kicked, hipped roof and shaped shingles; scrolled cornice brackets;

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Victorian double doors with stained glass transom; vernacular with classical influences. Recent large, 3-bay, hip-roofed frame addition to east side.

240 King's Highway, Bank House

133-125: Residential; ca. 1925-1945; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; metal gambrel roof; decorative brick pattern on flues; 2 narrow second-story windows; front entrance has classical pilasters and sidelights; Colonial Revival.

-Frame garage.

248 King's Highway, Jones House

133-126: Residential; ca. 1920-1930; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; metal gable roof; vernacular porch enclosed with weatherboard and screening; central flue; large front dormer; vernacular.

-Shed-roofed garage.

256 King's Highway

133-127: Residential; ca. 1920-1930; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, asymmetrical facade; metal gable roof; Bungalow porch; corbeled flue; exposed rafter ends; Bungalow. Reportedly built for Lone Star Cement Co. as employee housing.

-Lean-to garage.

260 King's Highway

133-129: Residential; ca. 1915-1930; wood frame with artificial siding; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; metal gable roof; remodeled front-gable porch; central flue; vernacular Bungalow. Reportedly built for Lone Star Cement Co. as employee housing.

-Lean-to garage connected with garage at 264 Kings Highway.

264 King's Highway

133-128: Residential; ca. 1920-1930; wood frame with asbestos shingles; 1 1/2 stories; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; metal gable roof; vernacular porch with tapered square columns; corbeled interior flues; 1-story rear addition; vernacular Bungalow. Reportedly built for Lone Star Cement Co. as employee housing.

-Lean-to garage connected with garage at 264 Kings Highway.

272 King's Highway

\*Residential; ca. 1950-1960; 1-story, frame dwelling; noncontributing.

282 King's Highway

133-130: Residential; ca. 1915-1930; wood frame with asbestos shingles; 1 story; 3-bay, symmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; vernacular Bungalow screened porch with front gable; wide overhang with decorative brackets; shouldered end chimney; Bungalow. Reportedly built for Lone Star Cement Co. as employee housing.

-Frame garage.

Meadowlot Lane

6017 Meadowlot Lane, Brock House

133-121: Residential; ca. 1820-1850; remodeled ca. 1930; wood frame with weatherboard; 1 1/2 stories; 2-bay, asymmetrical facade; composition shingle, gable roof; retains some original beaded siding; flue; east and west gable-roofed wings; rear addition; vernacular Tidewater. Buildings were originally part of farm complex of 120 Kings Highway.

-Post-and-beam smokehouse.

6027-6029 Meadowlot Lane

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133-122: Barn for 120 King's Highway (now used as an apartment building); ca. 1900-1925; wood frame with weatherboard; 2 stories; 5-bay, asymmetrical facade; metal gable roof; vernacular porch; shouldered chimneys; picture windows; 1-story rear addition; Colonial Revival remodeling.  
-Sawn log corner with apartment addition.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chuckatuck is one of the oldest communities in former Nansemond County, now the city of Suffolk. This settlement developed by the mid-seventeenth century, supported by the growing agricultural economy of the surrounding plantations. Located in the northern part of the county, Chuckatuck had both excellent water and land transportation, contributing to its growth as a commercial center. The community grew slowly until the early twentieth century, when several larger businesses and a consolidated school were established. Architecturally the village has a mixture of several late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century dwellings reflecting Tidewater regional influences, as well a variety of turn-of-the-century and early twentieth-century buildings following national styles. The result is a cohesive grouping of these residences with several commercial buildings along the crossroads of Godwin Boulevard and King's Highway.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Chuckatuck, one of the earliest settlements in the former Nansemond County is a hamlet on State Highway 10/32, midway between the old city of Suffolk and the town of Smithfield. It is located in the northern part of the former county, at the headwaters of Chuckatuck Creek, a major local waterway, which empties into Hampton Roads at the mouth of the James. The name Chuckatuck is of Indian origin and means crooked creek.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest references to a settlement here came from the records kept by George Fox, a founder and leader of the Quaker faith. Fox traveled through this area in 1672 and founded a Quaker meeting in this community. The Quaker congregation kept excellent records of its meetings and other historical events occurring in this settlement. These records provide some of the best documentation of the early history of Chuckatuck.<sup>2</sup>

Many planters settled in the fertile farmlands of northern Nansemond County, around the village of Chuckatuck, preferring this land over the more swampy parcels in the southern part of the county. The river offered good transportation facilities for their farm products. Early settlers grew a variety of subsistence crops, but tobacco soon became a major cash crop in the county. By the early nineteenth century, Chuckatuck had become an important center of local trade in the northern part of the county, due both to its access to water transportation, along the Chuckatuck and Nansemond Rivers, and to its setting along the Suffolk-Smithfield Highway.<sup>3</sup>

Many of the early residents in Chuckatuck belonged to the Church of England. Around 1642, the county was divided into three separate parishes. The West Parish was known as Chuckatuck, and its first church was built about one mile east of the village of Chuckatuck in 1643. The present church building, the third on this site, was constructed in 1756. The church was well attended, and by 1779 the congregation had added two small galleries to accommodate its growing numbers. Abandoned after the Revolutionary War, the church was repaired and returned to service by 1826.<sup>4</sup>

Although the Revolutionary War brought considerable military activity to the neighboring Tidewater ports, there were no battles fought in the area of Chuckatuck. General Benedict Arnold brought his British troops through the village on his way to Portsmouth followed by

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American troops. At one time during the war American troops set up camp in the community. Lord Cornwallis and his army passed through in 1781.<sup>5</sup>

Chuckatuck continued to grow slowly throughout the antebellum period. By the eve of the Civil War, the community had a new church, the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, on Kings Highway. In 1855 the Chuckatuck Male and Female Institute opened, making Chuckatuck an educational center as well. The Institute became a boarding school for women in 1857. The primary classes at the school included mathematics, reading, writing, grammar, geography, and composition. This curriculum was supplemented by classes in piano, guitar, vocal music, painting, and needlework.<sup>6</sup>

Because of its important location near major water transportation, Chuckatuck saw more action during the Civil War than many other parts of the county, but this activity was still minimal. Baker's cavalry set up a principal outpost at Chuckatuck where they were able to patrol the Nansemond River area. On 22 April 1863, a small skirmish broke out at Chuckatuck initiated by the Federals against the Confederate defenses when a Lieutenant Cushing went to the village to rescue some of his sailors.<sup>7</sup>

Farming continued to be important to the area's economy after the war. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many of the farms were divided among the owner's heirs. The depletion of the area soils and the loss of slave labor contributed to the abandonment of tobacco cultivation. After the Civil War, corn and cotton became the leading crops. Agricultural labor was provided by tenant farmers and hired labor.<sup>8</sup>

Chuckatuck still continued to be an important local trading center for the area. By 1897, the village had a post office, two carpenters, a wagon builder, a corn and flour mill, and Crumpler's Hotel. In the early twentieth century, the county selected Chuckatuck as the location for one of its new consolidated school complexes, which was built along Godwin Boulevard at the south end of the community. The Chuckatuck school complex consisted of four buildings, including a two-story brick elementary school built between 1890 and 1900, and an early twentieth century high school, gymnasium, and cafeteria. Due to a number of noncontributing buildings located between the school complex and the southern boundary of the district, the school buildings were not included in the historic district.

Chuckatuck experienced significant growth in the early twentieth century. By 1928 Chuckatuck boasted a cement company, a large grist mill, a lumber manufacturing plant, woodworking and blacksmith shops, a hydro-electric plant and later a pork-packing plant. The Portland Cement Company mined the rich marl beds in and around Chuckatuck and used the product to manufacture cement. The hydro-electric plant provided power for a light plant for the town, for grinding corn at the mill, and for operating the ice plant. By 1930, the town had a population of two hundred residents. They were served by four churches -- Methodist, Christian, Episcopal, and Baptist -- and a Masonic lodge.<sup>9</sup>

Chuckatuck's three general stores provided supplies for the local farmers. Of the three, only the Lafayette Gwaltney store still exists; it is located at the main community intersection of Godwin Boulevard and Kings Highway. Originally called the George Britten store, it was later bought and run by a Mr. Jones until 1929 when Gwaltney bought it. Gwaltney ran the store for over fifty years selling gas, groceries, and general store items.<sup>10</sup>

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Throughout the twentieth century, peanuts, corn, wheat, and livestock have been the major farm products in the surrounding countryside. Farmers shipped peanuts and wheat to Suffolk and corn for feed for the hog butchering and processing business around Smithfield. Other agricultural products were sent by truck to Norfolk for distribution and processing. In the 1940s, vegetables became an important cash crop; these were shipped to Norfolk by boat and later by trucks to be sold in local markets and sent on to other cities.

Chuckatuck's most famous son is Mills Edwin Godwin, Jr., twice governor of Virginia. Godwin is the grandson of B. W. Godwin, a prominent member of the community and owner of the lumber company, ice plant, and grist mill. Mills Godwin was born on Holladay Point Farm in Nansemond County in 1914, but he grew up in a house on Kings Highway in Chuckatuck. The Godwin house began as a Federal, side-hall dwelling owned by the Webb family. The Godwins purchased the dwelling in the 1890s and remodeled it to its present Queen Anne appearance. Mills Godwin attended the University of Virginia, where he earned a law degree in 1938, and then he returned to Chuckatuck to live in the family home and practice law in Suffolk. Godwin became the Assistant Commonwealth Attorney in 1942. He was the sixty-sixth and the sixty-eighth governor of Virginia and the only individual in the history of the Commonwealth to serve two terms as governor in the state.<sup>11</sup>

Today Chuckatuck retains much of its building fabric, although recent automobile-oriented businesses and their related parking needs have begun to detract somewhat from the historic character of the village. Current residential growth on neighboring waterways and surrounding farm land will result in continuing development pressures on Chuckatuck, as will the recently opened nearby U. S. Interstate 664 bridge to Newport News.

**ENDNOTES**

1. R. Moore Williams and John E. Martin, *Nansemond County and Suffolk, Virginia: History and Geography*, (Suffolk, Virginia: Chamber of Commerce of Suffolk, Virginia, 1928), p. 8.
2. Kermit Hobbs and William A. Pacquette, *Suffolk: A Pictorial History*, (Norfolk/Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1987), p. 154; Emma Spady, "The Chuckatuck People," (Unpublished manuscript, 1980), p. 2; W., E. MacClenney, "A History of Suffolk Virginia," in Nansemond River Power Squadron, "Flag Day 1986," (Suffolk, Virginia: 1986, MacClenney history dating to 1930), p. 17.
3. Williams and Martin, p. 8.
4. Spady, p. 2; Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, "National Register Nomination for St. John's Church", (Richmond: Unpublished manuscript, August 1972), part 7; Ann H. Burton, editor, *History of Suffolk and Nansemond County, Virginia* (Suffolk, Virginia: Phelps Ideas, 1970), p.13.
5. MacClenney, p. 17.
6. Carole Contois-Maguire, *Suffolk Journal*, Vol II (Suffolk, 1988) p. 24.
7. Steven A. Cormier, *The Siege of Suffolk: The Forgotten Campaign, April 11 - May 4*, (Lynchburg, Virginia: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1989), pp. 226-8.
8. Frazier Associates, "Reconnaissance Survey Report of the Northern Section, City of Suffolk, Virginia, (Staunton, unpublished manuscript, November 1988), p. 69; Rogers Dey Wichard, ed., *The History of Lower Tidewater Virginia*, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1959), p. 154.

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9. Williams and Martin, p. 8; Hobbs and Paquette, p. 154; MacClenney, p. 17.

10. Williams and Martin, p. 8; MacClenney, p. 17.

11. Al Saunders, Telephone interview with local resident, February 26, 1992.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**UTM References**

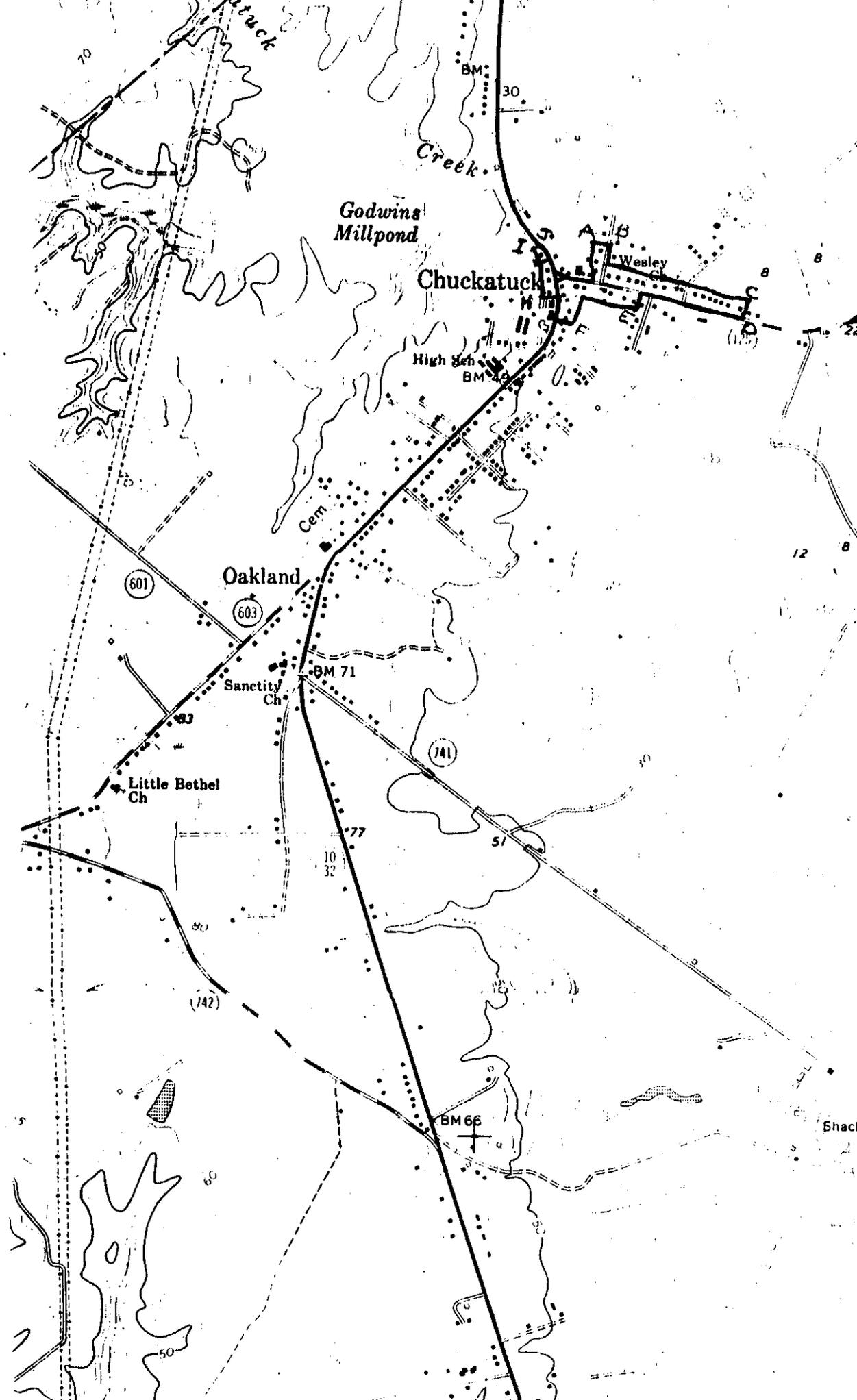
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G	18/359090/4080320
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J	18/359040/4080580

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Chuckatuck Historic District is shown on the accompanying tax parcel map entitled Chuckatuck Borough - Insert 10C.

**Boundary Justification**

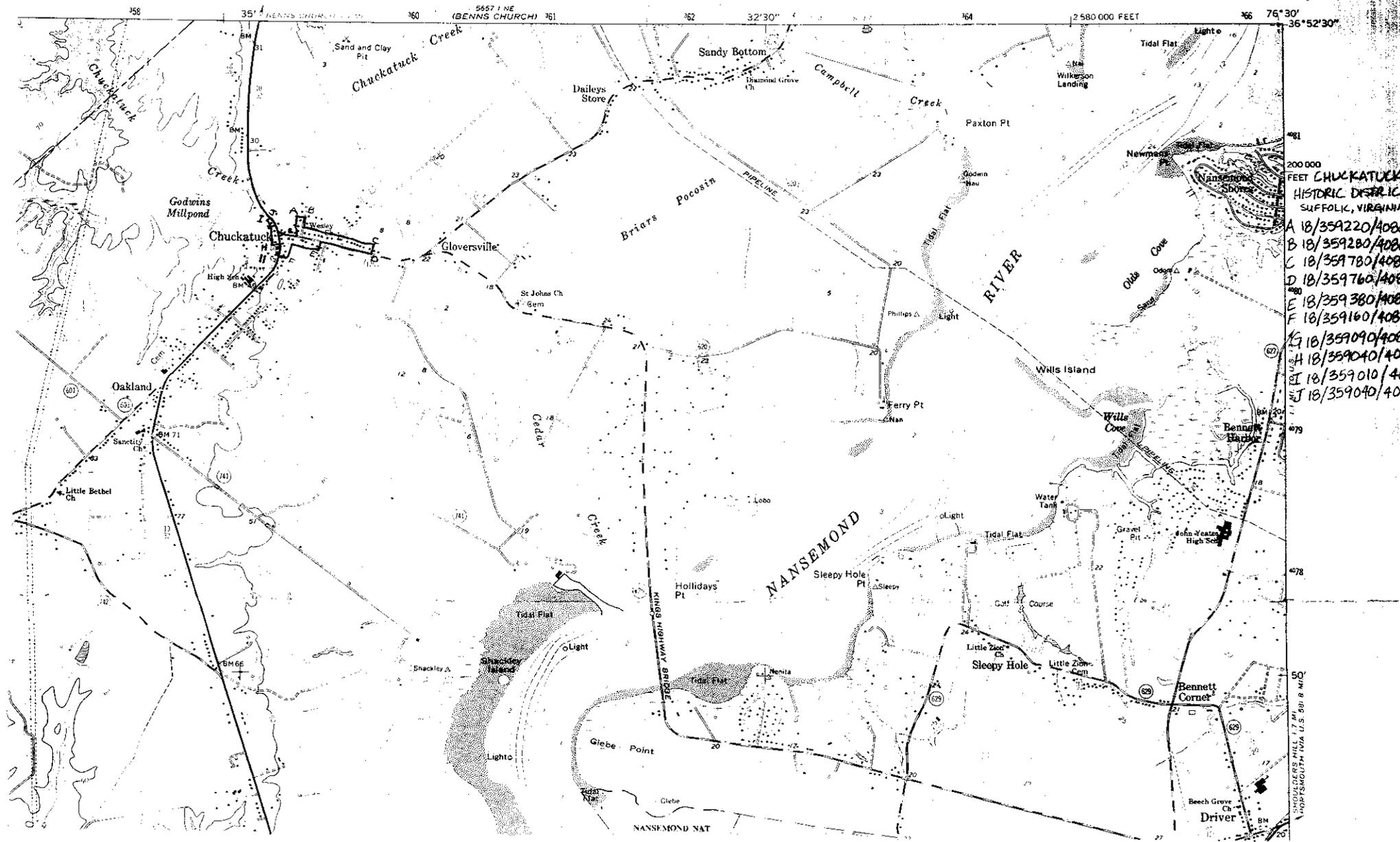
The Chuckatuck Historic District boundaries were drawn to include the commercial buildings at the intersection of King's Highway and Godwin Boulevard and the concentration of residential neighborhoods along these same roads that contain early-nineteenth to early-twentieth century residences and a church.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

CHUCKATUCK QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SECTION 17  
NEWBORN NEWS  
SOUTH



200 000  
FEET CHUCKATUCK  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA  
A 18/359220/408  
B 18/359280/408  
C 18/359780/408  
D 18/359760/408  
E 18/359380/408  
F 18/359160/408  
G 18/359090/408  
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I 18/359010/408  
J 18/359040/408

50'  
POP/SOUTH VIA U.S. 881 & R. 60