

Jailor's House, later Debtors' Prison  
Adjacent to Courthouse  
Accomac  
Accomack County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-623

HABS  
VA  
I-AC,  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## JAILOR'S HOUSE, LATER DEBRORS' PRISON

HABS  
VA  
1-AC  
4-

Address: Adjacent to Courthouse, Accomac, Accomack County, Virginia.

Present Owner and Occupant: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

Present Use: Museum; meetings of Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

Brief Statement of Significance: Originally built about 1785 as a residence for the jailor. Used for confinement of debtors in 1824, and continued as debtors' prison until 1849.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: County property until acquired by Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities on November 14, 1910.

B. Date of Erection: 1782-1785. According to Accomack County records, it was ordered to be built in 1782.

C. Contractor: Selby Simpson.

D. Notes on Alterations and Additions: As far as can be determined there have been no major alterations, but considerable repair over the years. Unquestionably, the lower room partitions have been changed but much tearing down would have to be undertaken to determine what changes have taken place. Repaired by Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1911 and again in 1953.

E. Sources of Information: Accomack County records; records of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities; Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of North Hampton and Accomack Counties, 2 vols. (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951).

Prepared by Commander John A. Upshur, Consultant,  
Colonial Williamsburg  
November 1961.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Small, brick building, the oldest municipal building in Accomack County.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

VA  
1-AC

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 18' x 30'; one story.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Solid brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers.
4. Chimneys: Two chimneys in end walls; one within the wall structure, the other on the outside.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doors: Diagonal board doors.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Nine over six light and nine over nine light sash. No shutters. Windows have iron detention grilles.
6. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof covered with recent slate.
  - b. Cornice: Wood, box cornice.

C. Technical Description of Interior: Two rooms on main floor, two in attic. Interior not visited.

D. Site: Set on small lot. Outbuildings consist of a wood shed.

Prepared by Archie W. Franzen, Architect  
National Park Service  
March 1960.