NR 148 9/24/98

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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, architectural 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.

items.
1. Name of Property
historic name King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District
other names/site number VDHR File # 049-5001
2. Location
street & number About 11.5 Acres at Jct of Allen Circle and Courthouse Landing Road not for publication
city or town N/A vicinity vicinity state Virginia code VA county King and Queen code 097 Zip 23085
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that the _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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _x locally. (Secont inuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official Date Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau 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
I. National Park Service Certification
, 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
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Signatu	ure of Keeper
Date of Action	
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as	many boxes as apply)
x private	
x public-local	
public-State	
public-Federal	
Category of Property (Check only	one box)
building(s)	
x district	
site	
structure	
object	
Number of Resources within Prop	erty
Contributing Noncontributing	ng
80 building	
0 o sites	
7 0 structu	
20 objects	S Comments of the Comments of
170 Total	
Touch and Constitution and Constitution	
number of contributing resources	previously listed in the National Register _0
Name of related multiple property	listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A	
Function or Use	
Cats Cassamment	es from instructions) district primarily governmental
Government	
Government	correctional facility
Commerce/Trade	
Domestic	restaurantsingle dwelling
	specialty store
	SUCCION SIGNE
Commerce/Trade	
Commerce/TradeEducation	school
Commerce/Trade Education Domestic	school hotel
Commerce/Trade Education Domestic Current Functions (Enter categorie	school hotel s from instructions)
Commerce/Trade Education Domestic current Functions (Enter categorie Cat: Government Government	school
Commerce/Trade Education Domestic current Functions (Enter categorie Cat: Government Government Recreation and Culture	school hotel s from instructions) government office courthouse museum
Commerce/Trade	school

Early Republic: Federal

Materials (En	ter categories from instructions)
foundatio	n brick, concrete
roof: asp	halt, metal
walls : br	ick, wood
other: gr	anite
Narrative Des	scription (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement	of Significance
Applicable N National Regi	ational Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property foster listing)
_x_A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
x_ C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction of
	represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant an
	distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Consi	derations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
A o	wned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B re	emoved 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 le	ess than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Signif	ficance (Enter categories from instructions)
	Politics/Government
	Architecture
	Social History
Period of Signi	ficance: c. 1750-1940
Significant Dat	tes 1828
-	1864
	1912

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, respectively. The façade has a roundheaded masonry opening which has been infilled with glass and double leaf glass doors creating a vestibule behind which are older wooden double leaf doors. On either side of the entrance within the central projecting pavilion are 9/9 double hung sash windows with shutters. Within the gable of the façade's projecting pavilion is a lancet window with a simple tracery pattern. Flanking the pavilion on the façade are two 9/9 windows. 6/6 sash windows are on the north and south elevations of the central projecting entrance pavilion.

The courthouse is a contributing building for the district.

Old Clerk's Office The building is a one-story brick rectangular plan, gable ended building. The roof is standing seam metal with an interior chimney which pierces the ridgeline to the east of center. There is a simple box cornice. It is laid in Flemish bond on the façade and three course American bond on the east, south, and west elevations. The façade has central double leaf metal doors topped by a four light transom and flanked by paired 8 light casement windows, each set topped by an eight light transom. The east elevation has one window opening with is shuttered closed. The south elevation has casement windows identical to the facade in placement and configuration. The west elevation has one set of paired casement windows with transom identical to the others, centered beneath the gable.

The building is shown on both the 1840 plat and the 1941 Fary Survey, so it must have been in its present location since at least the 1828 fire. The back of the office is right against the boundary line of the original one-acre 1691 parcel as shown on the 1840 plat, so it must have been built with that line in mind. Based on the 1840 plat, it must have been rebuilt on its original site after the 1864 fire.

The interior of the clerk's office previously had two vaults, one at each end of the building. This description is confirmed by the short handwritten paper entitled "Specification-Clerks office King & Queen County", (evidently from the 1866 reconstruction) which calls for "4 windows in the clerk's office, a chimney fire place, two vaults with one window each, stone doors and window frames, iron doors to vaults ..." In the 1930s this vault was taken out and concrete put on the interior of the walls.

The clerk's office was moved from this building in 1957 when the new wing on the courthouse was added for the clerk. The building became the county historical archive and small museum maintained by the King and Queen County Historical Society. The clerk's office is a contributing building for the district.

Jail This is a rectangular one story brick building laid in 6 course American bond with a hipped standing seam metal roof. The entrance is centered on the façade and flanked by barred 4/4 wooden sash double hung windows. The single leaf solid metal door is covered by a projecting triangular pediment with a standing seam gable, which, in turn is supported by diagonal wooden upbraces. The north and south elevations have single, centered, barred 4/4 wooden sash double hung windows and the west elevation has a pair of similar windows. The building has twin interior end chimneys with corbelled caps which echo the corbelled brick cornice of the building itself. A round central vent hood pierces the roof.

Behind the jail and semi detached is a circa 1890 auxiliary structure, now outfitted (though not currently used), as

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across four bays of the façade and a single bay on the east elevation. The entrance is in the central bay of the facade. It is via single leaf door topped by a transom. The entrance is flanked by 2/2 windows. The second floor has three 2/2 windows positioned above the windows and door on the first floor. There is hipped dormer with paired 2/2 windows centered on the façade. The house has a dentil cornice at the eaves and surrounding the dormer. The dormer has wooden fishscale shingles on its cheeks. The building was originally square in plan but has been augmented by a wing projecting north and a later addition to the east of the north wing. The house sits back from the road leading into the district and has several mature trees and a road trace in the front yard. The house is on the site of the Martin tavern burned in 1864, however archaeological studies to locate the exact location of the tavern have not been conducted. The property includes seven auxiliary buildings or structures: a garage, a corn crib, a dairy shed, a smoke house, a hen house, a barn, and a windmill, all of which are considered contributing for this nomination as is the house itself.

The district as a whole retains a high degree of integrity. Much of the historic material remains, particularly within the courthouse precinct. The district is visually cohesive. It is surrounded by wooded lots and cultivated fields which gives the district the sense of being set apart. Most of the district can be seen from a single vantage point. With the exception of the county courts and administrative complex, there are no non-contributing or non- historic elements which intrude on the district.

The pattern of development is clearly evidenced by the primary courthouse precinct within the colonial revival wall and the non-governmental buildings which lie in close proximity to the courthouse precinct. The nearby modern courthouse and county administrative office complex (1997) sits back from the road. Its brick exterior and low-slung massing in conjunction with its siting and setback keeps the complex from overwhelming the district. Its presence is yet another chapter in the continuing governmental and court presence in the area. Circulation networks are few due to the relatively small size of the district. However, the principal road remains as does a road trace along the front of the Allen house property. The 1930s wall was built along existing fence lines and openings are said to conform with the location of stiles. Paths within the courthouse precinct have been maintained.

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courthouse area grew to reflect the uses and functions associated with a courthouse district.

"As part of the legislative act formally creating King and Queen, the twelfth day of every month was designated for county court sessions. This official court day was changed by law in 1705 to the fourth Monday of the month and again in 1736 to the second Tuesday of every month. Residents looked forward to these regular sessions, for men from the whole county gathered on court day. In addition to witnessing the court in session, an event accompanied by much pomp and ceremony, the male attendees had ample opportunities for politicking and discussing business, as well as for casual socializing--much of this taking place in the local taverns after the court had adjourned."

The Fary's Tavern building had been used as a hotel and tavern since at least the mid 19th century and is a typical use associated with the courthouse community. This was the only building not burned by the Union troops in 1864, evidently because they were told that someone in the hotel was sick with smallpox. Hotels and taverns were located near courthouses because lawyers, litigants and witnesses would need a place to stay during a "term of court" when cases on the docket would be tried. The term often lasted a week or more.

The Martin Tavern site was the site of another tavern and hotel noted on the 1840 survey. The 1840 plat refers to the Hart's Tavern at this site across the road from the Courthouse, however it was operated as a tavern and hotel by Martin in the mid nineteenth century. A wall around the Tavern site allowed people staying in the tavern to sit on the lawn and enjoy "afternoon tea" without notice from neighbors. It was burned by the Union troops in 1864 along with the courthouse and other buildings.

Court Days remained a big event until the 1920s, when the custom of hearing cases on one specific day of the month was changed.

Throughout the late eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century the courthouse was threatened by political actions, and natural disasters. In 1789, residents of upper King & Queen County petitioned the state legislature to be incorporated as part of Essex County. "The formal argument they forwarded-one that had been successful a century earlier in forming new counties-was that their courthouse was too far away." Although the petition was denied by the legislature, the groundwork had been laid to continue to challenge the boundaries of the county and the effectiveness of its courthouse, based on geography.

⁴ Kaplan, Barbara p 44

⁵ The building has subsequently been used as office space for the county school board and is currently vacant. The County and the King and Queen Historical Society plan to restore this building and operate a county museum and archives in it.

⁶ Archaeological studies could do much to confirm the written and oral record of the Martin Tavern site. The only evidence of previous construction on the current residential site is a road trace that crosses the property south of the house, between it and the courthouse precinct.

⁷ Kaplan, Barbara p 78

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In December of 1801 another petition was presented to the legislature, backed by many of the upper King and Queen residents involved in the 1789 petition. This petition sought to re-draw completely the boundaries of Essex and King & Queen counties. "The petitioners noted that because both counties were long and thin, it was difficult for many citizens in either county to travel the long distances to their respective courthouses. How much better it would be, they argued, if the dividing line could be drawn "from River to River" (from the Mattaponi to the Rappahannock) and the courthouses relocated to the approximate center of each of these newly formed regions. If this were done, 'it is conceived that no person in either County would be more than 12 or 15 miles from his Courthouse.' "8 Petitioners suggested that existing courthouses be sold and new courthouses built at the central point of each new county.

Three days later, angry residents of lower King and Queen counter petitioned the legislature and claimed that the proposal to redistrict and relocate the courthouse would be confusing, inconvenient and expensive. There was no guarantee that appropriate land could be found or that funds would be available for new construction. Additionally there was the risk of losing or damaging court documents during and move and transition. The redistricting effort was defeated and the courthouse remained in its location.

The Courthouse was burned in 1828 and rebuilt. Also the clerk's office was burned, damaging records and the General Assembly approved a petition for \$600 to transcribe damaged records. The Clerk's Office and Jail are both shown at the same spots presently located on the 1840 survey, so they probably date from at least the rebuilding after the 1828 fire and would represent an early courthouse complex which remains intact.

One last attempt to redistrict the county came in December of 1835 with a petition to form a new county from portions of Upper King and Queen, Essex and Caroline Counties. The basis for this petition was that it was impossible for residents in the northern portion of the county to travel 35 miles to court and return in a single day. Many residents risked fines rather than be away from home for several days, traveling to and from court. The petition was denied. 10

The courthouse, jail and clerk's office were all burned in 1864 by Union forces in retaliation for the killing of Union Colonel Dahlgren by the King and Queen Home guard, after he attempted a raid on Richmond. After the county board meet for a time at Stevensville, the General Assembly authorized an election whether to move the county seat away from the old location. The citizens voted not to move the county seat. The courthouse, jail and clerk's office were promptly rebuilt in 1866 at a cost of \$4650, apparently on the prior foundations, based on the 1840 survey and the provisions of the board resolution which called for "rebuilding" the courthouse, jail and clerk's office.

In 1997 a new courthouse was built adjacent to the King and Queen Courthouse Green. The complex is set back from the road. It is constructed in brick and its low slung massing belies the volume of the building which houses county

⁸ Kaplan p 78

⁹ Kaplan p 78

¹⁰ Kaplan p 79

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administrative functions and county court. Even with this new building, many court functions still operate in the small brick building across the road and the area continues to function as the legal and governmental hub of the county after over 300 years.

Many additional activities and buildings grew up around the courthouse in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They included stores, a school, social and memorial activities (particularly those organized by women), and housing.

Several stoes have been in operation in the courthouse area. William Beverly Bird and Spottswood Bird owned a store there beginning in the 1850s. Spottswood Bird then went into partnership with William Allen in the 1890s. Later Claiborne H. Oliver joined the business and he and R. D. Allen owned a store in King and Queen Courthouse which was operated by Oliver until 1980. The store was removed when the new courthouse was constructed.

Another store building site previously contained several small buildings in a strip. There was garage, a blacksmith shop, an ice cream shop and a barber shop, all of which would be especially busy on court days, typical of a courthouse community. These buildings burned in the mid 1920s. Mr. Allen then moved the present building to the site. He had started it some years before on his property across the road, but it had never been completed. It was first used as a garage operated by Colin Cartin, then for residential use, but has been used as a state health office since the 1940s.

In 1904 a group of women organized to erect a memorial to the Confederate dead of King and Queen County. They chose a design and raised the necessary funds for the monument by 1912-1913. It was dedicated in a community ceremony attended by many King and Queen Confederate veterans. The effort was similar to efforts in other southern communities, as often Confederate monuments were organized and funded by women's organizations. The location of the monument within the courthouse precinct testifies to the importance of memorializing the community's war dead.

The King and Queen Elementary School building was built by the county in 1909, opened in 1910, and was the first two-room school in the area. It replaced a one-room school. Grades one through seven were taught in the new building. There was a movable partition down the middle of a large room, so that it could be separated into two rooms. By 1932 it was vacant with classes meeting in other buildings.

The King and Queen Women's Club was established in 1931. In 1932 it became associated with the Virginia Federation of Woman's Clubs. The Club has provided a venue for women to meet each other and to raise funds for community outreach programs. It met in privates homes and schools throughout the county until 1932, when club officers petitioned the school board to use the now vacant King and Queen Elementary school. In 1934, the Woman's club raised \$1,000 and purchased the building outright.

The site of the Martin Tavern was purchased after the 1864 fire by [Edna] Purcell and about 1911 was sold to Dr. William Hoskins from Newport News who retired to the area and built the present house generally on the site of the old Martin Tavern. It was the first house built in the community by a "contractor." Its significance is that it not only typical of a residence located in a courthouse community, but it preserves the spatial relationship of the prior hotel and tavern which was located on this site across the road from the courthouse. The house was conveyed to Roland Allen in

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1918 and has since been known as the Allen House and the road "Allen Circle".

The district as it is today continues to reflect the variety of activities associated with a rural courthouse community of long standing. The courthouse precinct continues to house some of the county's court activities and the King and Queen Historical Society operates the Clerk's office and hopes to restore the Fary Tavern. The Confederate monument still stands prominently within the courthouse precinct. The King and Queen Elementary School, (now the Woman's Club), the Allen House, and the Allen Store continue in uses that reflect the activity of the courthouse area while communicating their previous uses thus representing several layers of interpretation of the long and rich history of the site.

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Bibliographical References:

King and Queen County Historical Society Bulletin, historical periodical published semi-annually by the King and Queen County Historical Society. Miscellaneous issues with articles on:

Courthouse and courthouse community

Fary's Tavern

Martin's Tavern site

- Cox, Virginia D. and Weathers, Willie T., Old Houses of King and Queen County Virginia (1973)
- Hall, Carey C. <u>History of King and Queen Courthouse and Community</u> (c.1960); unpublished monograph in archives of King and Queen Historical Society
- Hall, Carey C. <u>Notes on Conversations with Carey C. Hall</u> (1998); unpublished monograph prepared by Jack Spain in archives of King and Queen Historical Society
- Kaplan, Barbara Beigun, <u>Land and Heritage in the Virginia Tidewater: A History of King and Queen County</u> Gaithersburg, Maryland: Barbara Beigun Kaplan, 1993.
- Peters, John O. and Margaret T. Peters, <u>Virginia's Historic Courthouses</u> Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1995.
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UTM References

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Verbal Boundary Description:

This description refers to a map on the required scale of 1" to 200' prepared by the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission entitled "King and Queen Courthouse Area" and hand-dated April 7, 1998 (the "Map") included with this application, together with a plat entitled "Plat of Property standing in the name of King and Queen County being The Well Lot" dated Noverber 14, 1995, prepared by Mitchell-Wilson Associates, P.C., West Point, Va and recorded in Book 156, page 757 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of King and Queen County (the "Well Lot" and the "Well Lot Survey"). The Map is prepared using tax parcel numbers and description which are only approximate and do not represent the actual boundary descriptions, so this must be kept in mind in reviewing the lines as shown on the Map.

Start at a point "A" on the Map in the east line of Courthouse Landing Road and go west to the south edge of a gravel roadway leading from Courthouse Landing Road behind the Old Clerk's Office (Parcel 36), and following such roadway around the Fary's Tavern and the Courthouse and Jail to a point where the edge of the gravel roadway touches the south line of the Well Lot as shown on the Well Lot Survey, then along the south line of the Well Lot to a point 10' west of the right of way of Allen Circle (State Route 681), then along such line in a northerly direction to a an intersection with the south line a of 20' right of way as shown on the Well Lot Survey, then west along such line to the beginning of the property of the Woman's Club as shown on the Well Lot Survey, then south along such line between the property of the Woman Club (Parcels 37 and 38) (the "Woman's Club Lot") and the Well Lot to a concrete marker found, a corner of the Woman's Club Lot, then west along the line between the Woman's Club Lot and the property of King and Queen County to the end of the cleared land and the beginning of the woods at the back of the Woman's Club Lot, then northerly along such edge of the cleared land and the beginning of the woods to the beginning of the land of the Trustees of the Immanuel Episcopal Church (Parcel 40)(the "Church Lot"); then south and east along the line between the Woman's Club Lot and the Church Lot to the beginning of the land of Dorothy Allen Davis et al (parcel 39) (the "Store Lot"); then east along the line between the Church Lot and the Store Lot to right of way of Allen Circle (State Route 681) and north along such right of way to the intersection of Allen Circle with State Route 14, then east

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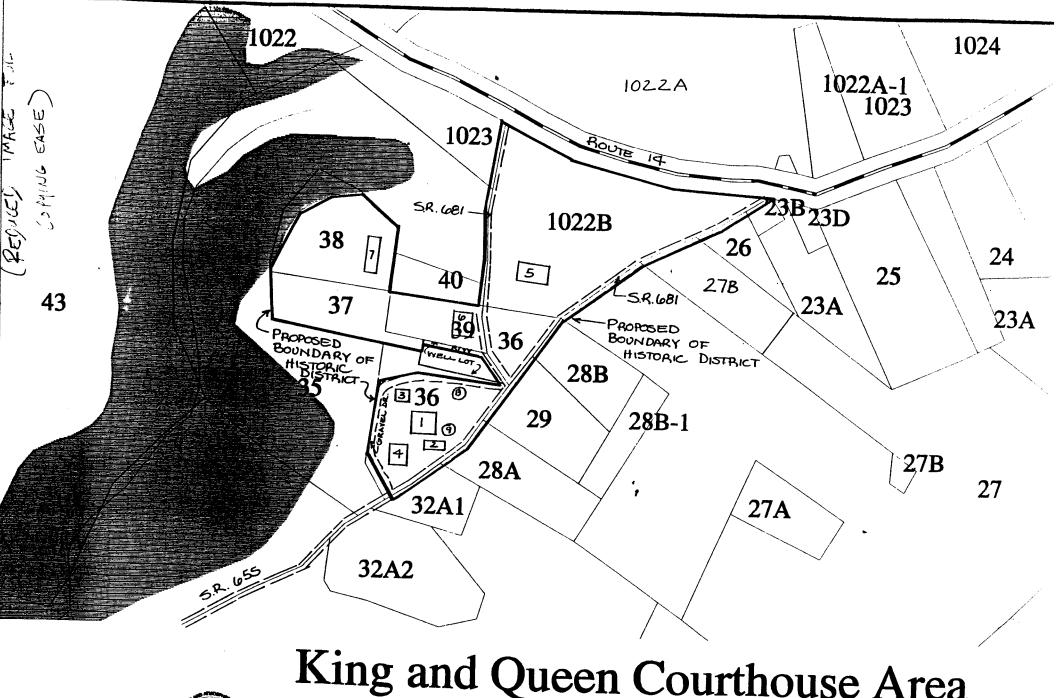
along the south right of way line of State Route 14 to the intersection of State Route 14 and the eastern leg of Allen Circle then along the eastern right of way line of Allen Circle and Courthouse Landing Road to the Point of beginning.

Justification of Boundary Line

This boundary at the beginning includes the county-owned land on which the historic buildings are located. Care has been taken to exclude the County-Owned "Well Lot" and the adjacent County owned land south of the Woman's Club Lot, because they constitute the County's utility systems. The Well Lot has both the well which is the source of public water for the courthouse area as well as the communications tower for all of the county emergency services. The land south of the Woman's Club Lot has the drainage fields for the courthouse sanitary sewage system. The county necessarily requires freedom to meet and needs or requirements for the maintenance of these systems if state or federal moneys are involved. The exclusion of this land does not impair the full use of the historic buildings in the historic district, just as these buildings have been used for past.

From the county-owned land the district includes (1)the adjoining Store Lot (2) so much of the Woman's Club Lot as is open, (3) the lot between the public roads on which the Allen House and the Martin Tavern site are located, and (4) the county owned parcel (Parcel 36A) in front of the Allen House Lot. The boundaries are reasonable for all of the included buildings and structures. Since the county has constructed its new administration and lower courts building on the land east of the east leg of Allen Circle and Courthouse Landing Road, the historic district does not go east of such roads.

The lot of Immanuel Episcopal Church (Parcel 40 on the Map) is not included because the Church had already made its own application for historic landmark designation in its own right and prefers to pursue that designation. The Historical Society supports that application because, although not technically in the legal boundaries of the King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District, the two designations will together give appropriate registration to all of the buildings located in the courthouse area.



King and Queen Courthouse Area





NWI Wetlands

Scale 1:2400 1"= 200

APRIL 7, 1998

NOTE: BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE

