

Peaceful, historic, coastal!! Gloucester and Mathews Counties date back to 1651 and boast historic downtowns that offer walking tours, shopping, dining, art galleries and charming B&Bs. Reflecting the maritime heritage of this Chesapeake Bay community, all of the homes and gardens on tour are situated on the pristine waters of the lower Chesapeake Bay. Tour four historic homes and historic Ware Episcopal Church. Included are an elegant home considered "the jewel of Tidewater", a humble 18th century icehouse turned riverfront home, a stately Federal home along Main Street and a craftsman-style home built by a sea captain. Spend the day or the weekend for a taste of authentic coastal living.



Nuttall Country Store - Ware Neck

Saturday, April 17, 2021 ~ Two Tour Sessions  
9:30 am to 1:30 pm or 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Hosted by: The Garden Club of Gloucester

Chairman: Lynne Bohon Manning (919) 880-2329 or  
gloucester@vagardenweek.org

Co-Chairman: Pam Driggs (804) 815-4418

Tickets: \$40 pp. Due to COVID, the tour will be split into morning and afternoon tours. Ticketholders will have four hours to complete the entire tour of four homes – either 9:30 to 1:30 or 1:30 to 5:30. Tickets will be capped at 160 tickets for the morning tour and 160 tickets for the afternoon tour. Tickets will not be available at headquarters or at the homes and are only available in advance at [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org).

Tour Headquarters: Ware Episcopal Church, 7825 John Clayton Memorial Hwy, Gloucester, VA 23061. Maps available on tour day.

Lunch: Pre-order \$15 box lunches from Nuttall Country Store by calling (804) 693-3067 or emailing [nuttallstore@gmail.com](mailto:nuttallstore@gmail.com) by Thursday, April 15, 4 PM. Lunches will be available for pick-up at either Nuttall (all day) or at Ware Episcopal Church from 12:30 to 1:30 PM day of tour. A covered open-air structure at Ware Church is available for seating with picnic tables.

Facilities: Available at all homes and Ware Episcopal Church headquarters.

Parking: Free parking is available at headquarters and on site at Toddsbury, Cherokee, Weston Hall and Palace Green.

Special Activities: Gloucester Extension Master Gardeners will be available for guided tours of Brent & Becky's Bulbs Chesapeake Bay-friendly gardens from 10AM to 4PM Brent & Becky's Bulbs is located at 7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester, VA 23072.

Arts on Main, 6580 Main St., Gloucester will be having a special exhibit: Bird's Eye Point of View by ceramicist Dianne Hottenstein from 12 PM to 5 PM.

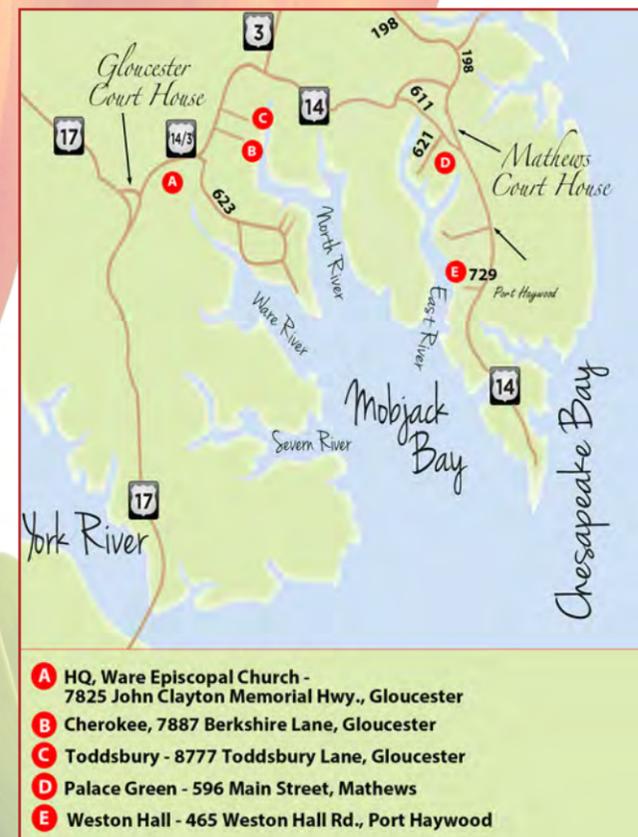
Bay School Community Arts Center, 279 Main St., Mathews will be having a Contemporary Folk Art exhibition featuring regional artists from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Archeological excavation and demonstration on the grounds of Palace Green performed by Dr. David A. Brown and Thane H. Harpole of the Fairfield Foundation.

Bartlett Tree Experts seedling table at Cherokee. Free tree seedlings to 160 visitors between 12PM and 3PM.

Archeological display on the east lawn of Toddsbury prepared by the Fairfield Foundation.

Nationally known local plein-air artist, Dorothy Fagan, painting on-site at Weston Hall.



- A HQ, Ware Episcopal Church - 7825 John Clayton Memorial Hwy., Gloucester
- B Cherokee, 7887 Berkshire Lane, Gloucester
- C Toddsbury - 8777 Toddsbury Lane, Gloucester
- D Palace Green - 596 Main Street, Mathews
- E Weston Hall - 465 Weston Hall Rd., Port Haywood

Please note that Google Maps and GPS may or may not work in all areas.

Gloucester Historic Court Circle, 6509 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061. The brick-walled circle of historic county buildings is the oldest living village in Virginia. The 1766 Colonial Courthouse is the oldest courthouse still in use and the 1823 Debtor's Prison is one of only three remaining in the state. [www.gloucesterva.info/documentcenter/view/3001/court-circle-self-guided-tour-pdf](http://www.gloucesterva.info/documentcenter/view/3001/court-circle-self-guided-tour-pdf)

Gloucester Museum of History, 6539 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061. The Botetourt Building, one of the largest pre-revolutionary brick ordinaries, houses exhibits on the history of Gloucester from the Native American era through the present. (804) 693-1234 or [www.gloucesterva.info/820/Museum-of-History](http://www.gloucesterva.info/820/Museum-of-History).

Mathews Visitor Center, 239 Main St., Mathews, VA 23109. Located in the 1898 Sibley's General Store, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (804) 725-4229 or [www.visitmathews.com](http://www.visitmathews.com)

Mathews Courthouse Square, Court St., Mathews, VA. 23109. The Court Green is a national historic district and is where the Debtors jail and County Administration Offices have been in operation since 1795. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Chesapeake Bay-Friendly Teaching Gardens at Brent & Becky's Bulbs, 7900 Daffodil Ln., Gloucester, VA 23061. This 8+ acre garden contains more than 20 themed "rooms" to demonstrate gardening that honors the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. (804) 693-3966 or [www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com](http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com)

Nuttall Country Store, 6495 Ware Neck Rd, Gloucester, VA 23178. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Nuttall Store has served the Ware Neck community since 1875. (804) 693-3067 or [www.nuttallstore.com](http://www.nuttallstore.com)

Zion Poplars Baptist Church, 7000 T.C. Walker Rd., Gloucester, VA 23061. Built in the Gothic Revival style in 1886, it is one of the oldest independent African American congregations in Gloucester County and was founded when the first members met for religious services under seven Poplar trees. (804) 693-4821.

Tompkins Cottage, Brickbat Rd., Mathews, VA. 23109. This c. 1815 cottage stands as one of the oldest wooden structures in the Court House. In 1837, it was purchased for use as a storehouse by Christopher Tompkins, father of Captain Sally Louisa Tompkins, C.S.A., the first female commissioned officer in the Confederate Army. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New Point Comfort Lighthouse, Port Haywood, VA 23138. This structure, commissioned by Thomas Jefferson, sits off of the southernmost tip of Mathews County and stands 55 ft. tall. It is the 3rd oldest surviving light in the bay. (804) 725-7182 or [www.newpointcomfortlighthouse.org](http://www.newpointcomfortlighthouse.org)

Walter Reed's Birthplace, 4021 Hickory Fork Rd., Gloucester, VA 23061. Dr. Walter Reed, who discovered the cure for yellow fever, was born here and lived here as a child. It is significant because it represents the early small rural dwellings once so common to Tidewater Virginia. (804) 824-4664.

Rosewell Plantation Ruins, 5113 Old Rosewell Rd., Gloucester, VA 23061. 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. The Garden Club of Virginia granted a research fellowship in 2003 to consolidate landscape records of the grounds. (804) 693-2585 or [www.rosewell.org](http://www.rosewell.org).

Edge Hill House, 6805 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061. The earliest part of Edge Hill was built from 1750 to 1770 and served as a family home and prominent general store among other endeavors. In addition to the house, a self-guided map is available for touring the gardens. (804) 642-6093.



The Gardens at Toddsbury  
Tour Photography by Sandy Geiger

- Arts on Main
- Bobby's Auto Service Center
- Brent & Becky's Bulbs
- Commonwealth Water Treatment
- Comfortable Climate Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
- Dr. Lombard, DDS
- GibsonSingleton Personal Injury Lawyers
- Gloucester Arts Festival
- Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal
- Gloucester Parks & Recreation
- Gunn's Body Shop, Inc.
- Haley Real Estate
- Inn at Warner Hall
- Lynne Bohon Manning
- Main Street Preservation Trust for Gloucester Village
- Mobjack Bay Marina
- Nuttall Country Store
- Olivia's in The Village
- Phillips Energy
- Ricks Upholstery & Auto Trim
- Riverwood Designs
- RiverOrganics.com
- Robert Thompson Painting
- Rye's Flooring-Gloucester
- Scout's BBQ
- Smith's Florist & Gift Shoppe
- Split Enz
- Bambi Thompson
- Virginia Country Real Estate
- White Marsh Shopping Center
- Whitley's Peanuts



Saturday, April 17, 2021  
9:30am to 5:30pm

Gloucester - Mathews  
House & Garden Tour



America's Largest Open House & Virginia's Oldest Volunteer Tourism Project

[vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org)



**Ware Episcopal Church  
Headquarters  
7825 John Clayton Memorial Hwy.,  
Gloucester**

*Ware Parish Church* is a historic Episcopal church located in Gloucester County, Virginia. Founded in 1652, it is one of the oldest surviving parish churches in the Commonwealth. Why the name Ware Parish? There's no clear answer other than that the Ware River is nearby. The parish was formed after the execution of Charles I in England and before Charles II was crowned king. During this period the offices of the Bishop of London and The Book of Common Prayer were abolished. Yet the colony in Virginia remained loyal to the monarchy. In the parish's earliest days, they worshiped on Ware Neck near Glen Roy Plantation. Tradition and research by the Rev'd William Byrd Lee, 12th rector of Ware, indicated that the church was completed circa 1690.

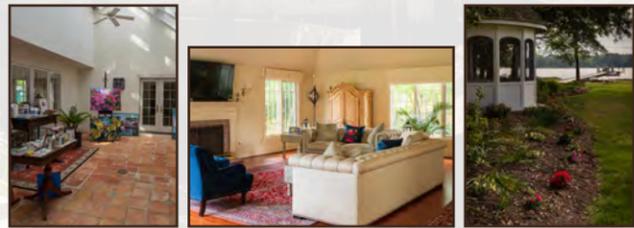


**Directions to Ware Episcopal Church:** from George Washington Memorial Hwy. (Rt. 17) North or South, follow signs at Gloucester Courthouse to John Clayton Memorial Hwy. (Rt. 14E). In 1.0 mile you will see the church parking lot on the right. Due to rural driving conditions, GPS and Google Maps may or may not work. Maps are available at HQ on the day of tour and at [vugardeemweek.org](http://vugardeemweek.org).



**Cherokee  
7887 Berkshire Lane, Gloucester**

*Cherokee* started life as a typical 18th century icehouse; a circular two-story tower with brick walls 8" thick. Dirt was piled around them to about halfway up to provide insulation for the ice kept inside. In 1922, William Fleet Taliaferro and his wife Elizabeth converted the icehouse into a lovely retirement dwelling. They added a front door on the river side, grand windows, and an addition to include bathroom, kitchen and dining room. The "round room" on the first floor became their living room, and the house was named Cherokee for the roses that grew there. Cherokee is a gracious home with magnificent views of the North River. The circular first floor room is the dining room, with a perfectly round table in the center. An earlier expansion of the house created an intimate interior courtyard garden which has since become a light-filled space for Mrs. Merrill's art studio. Visitors will enjoy seeing her vibrant floral paintings, as well as collections of art, hand-blown glass bottles, decoys, and steins. Other notable features include a grandfather clock from the 1700's and a vintage slot machine. With its history as a humble icehouse, Cherokee is a singular experience.



**Gayle and Hunter Merrill, Owners**

**Directions from Ware Episcopal Church (headquarters) to Cherokee:** from the church parking lot, turn right onto Route 14E. Go 2.2 miles, turn right onto Exchange Drive. Go straight 1.4 miles. See parking attendants on the right.



**Toddsbury  
8777 Toddsbury Lane, Gloucester**

*Toddsbury* is a 17th-century family home, acknowledged as the "Mother House" of the North River. Of the original land grant, made to English sea captain Thomas Todd in 1652, one hundred acres remain. Built of brick, facing the river, the original house dates from 1658. Additions in 1690, 1720, 1782 and 1948 complete the L-shaped gambrel-roofed structure seen today. Toddsbury is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Virginia Historic Landmark. The interiors boast extremely fine early 18th-century paneling, unique carved "keystones" over the windows, and brick linenfold jack arches above the earliest entrances. The garden wall dates from the 1690's and the nearly mile-long riverfront with its enormous willow oaks overlooks the longest southern exposure on the North River. The half-mile tree-lined approach to the house leads to the orchard, walled garden, carriage house, guest house, horse paddocks, barn and wharf. Archaeology on the east lawn, and specimens of rare "Gloucester Hickory" exchanged with Jefferson for planting at Monticello, enhance the grounds of this finely preserved home, known as "The Jewel of Tidewater". Toddsbury was last opened in 1988.



**Mr. and Mrs. F. Breckinridge Montague, Owners**

**Directions from Ware Episcopal Church (headquarters) to Toddsbury:** from the church parking lot, turn right onto Route 14E. Go 2.3 miles, turn right onto Toddsbury Lane. Go straight 1.0 miles to parking attendants.



**Palace Green  
596 Main Street, Mathews**

*Palace Green* sits well back from Main Street in Mathews behind a sweeping lawn dappled by the shade of mature trees. The exact age of this stately home is unclear but the lunette window high under the roof peak matches several others elsewhere in Mathews which can be reliably dated c. 1835. The current owners are part of the Cooke family which entered the long history of the house around 1918 when Giles Buckner Cooke purchased the home. He had been a Confederate Army officer, educator and Episcopal minister. By 1920, he was the last living member of Robert E. Lee's wartime staff. His son, John Warren Cooke, was born in 1915 and grew up to be a politician and newspaper publisher. John Warren Cooke's daughter and her husband are the current owners and third generation of the Cooke family to live here. In the room to the left of the entry hall visitors can see Giles Cooke's writing desk as well as a fine portrait of John Warren Cooke by portrait artist David Silvette dating from Cooke's years as the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates. Palace Green has an extensive collection of family antiques and a captivating art collection. The charming waterfront guest cottage will also be open. Palace Green was last open in 1992.



**Elsa & Paul Verbyla, Owners**

**Directions from Ware Episcopal Church (headquarters) to Palace Green:** from the church parking lot, turn right onto Route 14E. Go 11.8 miles to Church Street (Route 611). Turn right onto Church Street, follow for 2.3 miles to stop light. Turn right onto Main Street. Go .5 miles to Palace Green on your right. See the parking attendants.



**Weston Hall  
465 Weston Hall Rd. Port Haywood**

*Weston Hall* enjoys magnificent views of the East River and beyond to the Mobjack Bay. Massive trees grace the sweeping lawn. There is a view across Mill Creek to nearby Poplar Grove and its original tide mill, the last one remaining in the Mobjack area. Weston Hall was built by Capt. Clarence Kirwan between 1900-1919. Legend has it that no construction was allowed to take place while the captain was at sea. Pine timber from the property was used for floors and doors. The sturdy-looking Arts and Crafts-style exterior belies the light and airy feeling of the rooms within. Built to resemble the layout of a ship, the wide entry hall is fifty feet long and sweeps from the land side entrance to the water side. Large light-filled rooms with high ceilings provide an open and sunny ambiance which serve as a backdrop for the art collection and the artfully chosen decor. The homeowner is a painter and her artist's touch is apparent throughout the home and garden. The recently renovated guest house will also be open for tour. Weston Hall was last open in 2002.



**Cindy and Bill Barnett, Owners**

**Directions from Ware Episcopal Church (headquarters) to Weston Hall:** from the church parking lot, turn right onto Route 14E. Go 11.8 miles to Church Street (Route 611). Turn right onto Church Street, follow for 2.3 miles to stop light. Turn right onto Main Street. Go 2 miles to Rt. 729 which is Weston Hall Rd. Turn right onto Weston Hall Rd., go .4 mile to parking attendants