

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE OLD THOMAS JAMES STORE
TO THE MATHEWS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS, April ? 2009

Short Term Goals:

1. Completion of data base reorganization by Laurie Whiteway, approved by the Board January 21, 2009. Estimated cost \$2500 - \$3000. Currently 50% done, delivery date June 1, 2009.
2. Expansion of documentary research report by Becky Barnhardt. Estimated 100 hours @ \$15 per hour ... \$1500.
3. Improve rainwater runoff - **high priority**. Licensed engineer has offered to donate drawings for this scheme (shallow drainage trenches under east and west eaves to connect with similar trench running west to Main Street, plus lip on blacktop area behind electronics store - south side - to divert water to one of the trenches). Pending a title search (ordered by County Administrator February 25, 2009) to establish ownership of easement along Maple Avenue. Permission of MCVIC and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Morgan will also be needed for north-south trenches and the lip. Cost to be determined.
4. Recruit assistance for contacting funding sources and processing applications.
5. Stabilize north foundation and sills, and northeast corner junctions, selectively replace broken or rotten siding, remove salt efflorescence, and repair door on west wing. Local carpenter Henry Schlenk has estimated approximately \$6000.

Long Term Goals:

1. Explore with MCVIC possibilities of long term lease or purchase of land on which store stands.
2. Explore transfer of ownership to County.
3. Seek funding for Historic Structure Report integral to major long term funding efforts. Cost estimated by M. Wenger of Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker, Architects, at \$31,600, including dendrochronology.

Board to decide whether to preserve store as is or to restore it to its presumed appearance when new, and to decide how to exhibit and interpret it.

4. Initiate detailed planning for exhibition and interpretation of store.