

YORK
A Gloucester County teen was returned to her parents in an unusual fashion Saturday when she was late returning from a camping trip — an Air Force helicopter plucked her from Goodwin Island and dropped her at Langley Air

Shoemaker, both 15, set out in an 18-foot skiff for an overnight camping trip to the island on Thursday afternoon.

"He was to bring her back no later than 9 p.m. on Friday, but on Friday he decided, rather prudently, not to return at that time because of the weather,"

hadn't returned by 10 a.m., the girl's mother called the boy's father, who in turn called us."

Ferguson's father, James Ferguson, had not considered his son overdue because the teen planned on returning Shoemaker, then heading back to the

experienced boater and camper. The Coast Guard station at Milford Haven launched a 41-foot utility boat to begin a search around Goodwin Island, but was unable to reach the shore

Please see **Rescue/B2**

one-year pilot project. The state pays about half the \$600,000 price tag, and Newport News and Hampton chip in the rest. Both cities send students. School officials said that if the academy proves successful in curbing dis-

Please see **Academy/B2**

Research center offers clues to past

Farm homestead unearthed in Hampton when NASA planned maintenance area

By **Mark Di Vincenzo**
Daily Press

HAMPTON

Hugh Ross and his descendants, who lived on a 50-acre Hampton farmstead from the late 17th century to the early 19th century, didn't have it so easy.

They farmed their land without slaves, a sign of poverty, not of humanity. Their house was no bigger than a modern-day master bedroom. Most of their dishes, pots and kitchen containers were made of cheap ceramics. They didn't grow much tobacco and food, but they had to sell some of it to buy needles, salt and other things they couldn't make. And the Ross daughters didn't come with dowries.

"They were marginally surviving," said Franklin H. Farmer, archaeologist at NASA-Langley Research Center, where a portion of the farmstead was recently unearthed in a clump of trees. "From generation to generation, they were just barely making it."

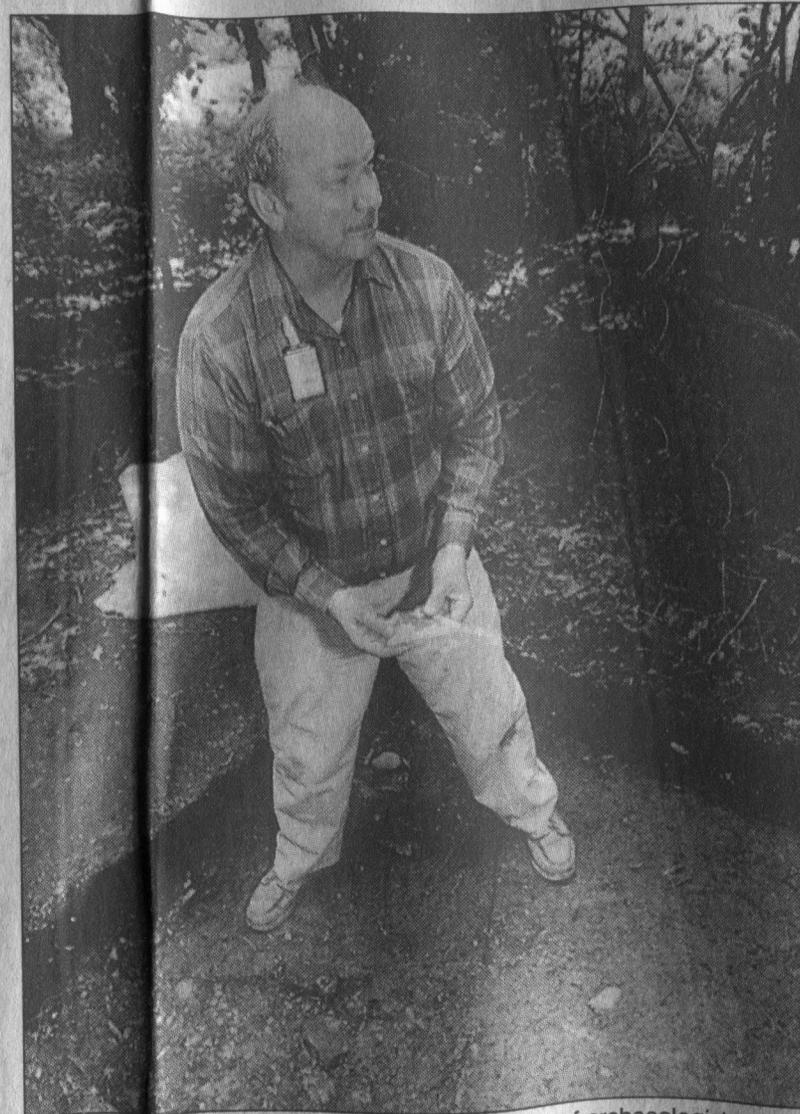
The site is not only of local historical interest, archaeologists say, but also of national anthropological interest.

Little is known about the lives of poor 17th- and 18th-century farmers, archaeologists say, because plantations far outnumbered small farms and because historians have been more interested in wealthy and middle-class farmers.

NASA officials are impressed enough with this discovery to nominate the Ross farmstead for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

It probably would not have been found — at least not now — if not for a desire by Langley planners to build a maintenance complex: three

Please see **Research/B2**



The farm at NASA-Langley was found after a team of archaeologists, led by Jerome Traver of MARR Associates Inc., dug a series of holes and sifted the dirt through wire-mesh screens.

NASA

Pottery may resurrect 'poor' historical figure from soil of Yorktown

By **Bentley Boyd**
Daily Press

JAMESTOWN

Historical potters who have lost their home on Jamestown Island may bring "The Poor Potter of Yorktown" back to life.

After 20 years at the Dale House, the Jamestown Pottery closed this month to give more room to its landlord, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

The APVA will use the house for office and lab space for archaeologist William Kelso, who was hired this summer to spend the next decade surveying the non-profit organization's 22 acres on Jamestown Island.

"We will turn it into a fishbowl, so that visitors will be able to see the research and the conservation of the artifacts," said APVA director Peter Grover. "They will be able to see archaeology in action."

The pottery was operated by Eastern National Park and Monument Association, which runs the gift shops for the National Park Service. Potters had produced and sold pieces fashioned after artifacts excavated at Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America.

The park service is now talking with the monument association about how to set up a pottery operation in Yorktown to interpret the life of 18th-century entrepreneur William Rogers.

"We always had this in mind, because we felt this was such an important story," said

Please see **Pottery/B2**

en if you don't, turkey. ... My son had the chicken pox twice; definitely. ... I would use the vaccine. My 13-year old son has the chicken pox now, and I'm 36 and I've never had the pox. If there was a vaccine, we both would have had the shot by now. ... We've got shingles cases starting to take over, which comes from the same bug as the chicken pox ... It's a great idea and should be encouraged. ... Our family would like to, but how can we afford it?

protect 90 people who die each year from the disease. The disease is not that dangerous. ... I've been trying to get my kids to catch the chicken pox for two years now, and they still haven't caught it, no matter how many times I expose them to it. The vaccine isn't worth it. ... There's no need for a vaccine at this point. My son already has it.

Today's question: Should Hampton have riverboat gambling?

DP CHRISTMAS FUND

Previously Reported
\$27,945.03

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-Lambda Omega Chapter \$200.00
 - Bruce and Judith Crocker \$100.00
 - In loving memory of Doreen L. Short from Reginald Short \$25.00
 - Mary Montague and Warren Stephens \$100.00
 - Mrs. Florence Phillips \$20.00
 - In memory of my mother, Edith E. Smith, from Shirley Ann Davis \$20.00
 - Charles and Julia Valliant \$50.00
 - Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ryle, Jr. \$25.00
 - Employees of Advanced Technologies Inc. \$133.00
 - Barry Sokol \$100.00
- Total to Date \$28,718.0**

Pottery

Continued from B1

Jim Haskett, assistant superintendent for historical interpretation for Colonial National Historic Park.

"The APVA's plans have pushed things up a little. We probably wouldn't have done this so soon otherwise."

Rogers, who died in 1739, worked when the English monarchy insisted that all pottery used in America be made in England. Haskett said he got his nickname when an English governor wrote officials that Rogers should be allowed to continue his trade because he was just a "poor potter" and no match for English craftsmen.

But Rogers apparently made a good living; he owned a brewery, widespread tracts of land, retail and wholesale shops and ships.

"The story of the 'Poor Potter' is that he was neither poor nor a potter, but an entrepreneur," Haskett said.

Rogers even maintained the

streets of Yorktown. Workers digging a sewer line through Yorktown in the 1950s found a roadbed full of unglazed pottery.

"He literally paved the streets with his broken pottery," Haskett said. "Even until recently you could walk along the streets of Yorktown after a rain and find pieces."

His pottery is turning up at many archaeological digs, including a NASA-Langley site.

Rogers' pottery is easy to recognize since he used clay loaded with iron oxide, a mineral that left red speckles on most of his pots.

Rogers' 18-foot-tall and 180-foot-long pottery kiln was discovered under a house decades ago and now sits under a hut on Reed Street between Main and Ballard. Haskett said there have never been regular tours to explain the significance of the site, which displays a 1722 fragment that is the oldest dated earthenware made in the American colonies.

"It was no small operation by any stretch of the imagination," Haskett said. "This is a nationally significant early industrial site."

Hampton

Continued from B1

long-term initiatives.

The City Council has yet to approve any of the proposals, and city officials stress that the ideas are just ideas. But City Council

officials have done poorly.

Mayor James L. Eason cautioned that doing nothing threatens the long-term economic viability of the city.

Currently, residential taxes don't cover the entire cost of city services homeowners use, so the city's commercial tax base has to bridge that gap, officials say. The trouble is,

LOOKING OUT

To increase jobs, retail sales, housing years the city hopes to:

- Develop a major family entertainment complex in the central city at a private investment of \$50 million to \$75 million.
- Attract riverboat gambling. The

bringing drugs or weapons to school. Academy officials hope the small, strict setting and separation from bad peer influences will allow

tive feedback, and the computers do that," said Joel Fischer, the academy's computer teacher.

On the computers, students can

mend the academy to others in trouble. "They help you future-wise."

Research

Continued from B1

prefabricated buildings where plumbers, electricians and carpenters will be based.

Because NASA-Langley is a federal facility, its planners must determine whether there is anything of historical or cultural value in the soil that might be disturbed during the construction of a building. So they set out to do that before the buildings were put in place.

"Going into this, we didn't know the site would be of historical significance," said NASA-Langley master planner John L. Mouring Jr.

Archaeologists, led by Jerome D. Traver of MAAR Associates Inc., of James City County, plotted an area of 3.4 acres, where the complex was to be located, and dug holes every 60 feet.

They sifted dirt from the holes through wire-mesh screens, leaving fragments of brick, ceramics, nails and oyster shells on the screens. The initial digging also turned up a post mold, a round, dark stain in the soil where a post to support a house was once anchored in the ground. Twenty feet away, another post mold was found.

"That was an accidental find," Traver said. "At that point, we felt we were on to something. We knew

we had a domestic site."

After the post molds were found, a second round of digging began.

In all, they found 8,211 artifacts, most of which are pieces of pottery, oyster shells, bricks and mortar.

Perhaps the most interesting find is a chunk of pottery from William Rogers, also known as "The Poor Potter of Yorktown."

Rogers worked in the 18th century during a time when the English monarchy insisted that all pottery used in America come from England. Local historians say an advocate of Rogers' once wrote English officials to explain that Rogers was just a poor potter and should be allowed to continue to work at his trade. It appears Rogers made a pretty good living, however, because his pottery is turning up at archaeological digs up and down the East Coast, archaeologists say.

Rogers' pottery is not difficult to recognize, Traver said, because he used clay loaded with iron oxide, a mineral that left red speckles on most of his pots.

Besides the pieces of pottery, brick, mortar and oyster shells, the dig also turned up shards of glass, bone and teeth, a couple of buttons and brass tacks and several pieces of pipe stems and nails.

The two post molds were not the only evidence of a house foundation the archaeologists unearthed. They also found what they believe is an older foundation, made of

brick and mortar, in the same place they found the post molds.

This is a mystery to them because houses built on posts generally were built in the early 18th century, and houses with brick and mortar foundations came later that century. In this case, the house with the brick foundation was dated between 1725 and 1750 and the house on posts sometime after that.

"We don't know what the Rosses were doing," Traver said. "Maybe their first house, the one with the brick foundation, burned down, and they built the house on posts as a temporary structure. We just don't know."

Soon after the digging began, NASA-Langley planners realized they needed to redesign the center's maintenance complex, keeping it off the site where the foundations were unearthed. On paper, the buildings were moved and a parking lot was relocated, said Mouring, Langley's master planner.

Farmer, Langley's archaeologist, said NASA won't pay to further excavate the site. But he said that doesn't preclude a professor or archaeologist with an interest in 18th-century lower-class farmers from applying for a grant to dig further.

"We don't have many sites that tell us about the lives of subsistence farmers," Farmer said, "but we have one here. There's a lot more to learn from this site."

FOR HAMPTON

and tourism in the next 10 to 15

properties as a major retail and commercial center.

- Develop an office building on city property near the vacant Leggett's building downtown to

city to "serve as the catalyst" to create a minimum of 1 million square feet of retail space by 2000 near the center of the city. One of the prime areas for that, officials say, would be Pine Chapel, a government-subsidized housing complex next to Hampton Coliseum and owned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The city has talked to HUD

a virtual reality experience that could be the next entertainment explosion — highlight the officials' interest in how technology might play a part in taking the city into the next century.

One article, from a magazine called "Urban Land," predicts the emergence of miniature theme parks in urban areas that use new technologies to create "rides" pro-