

PLACE: Pleasure House

LOCATION; Virginia Beach (old Princess Ann County). According to two maps made at the time of the War of 1812, the site of the Pleasure House was situated back from the beach on Lynhaven Bay, approximately where Route 13 (Northampton) crosses Bayshore Drive. See two maps, originals in the National Archives in Washington, RG 77, Fortification Files, G-47-3; and G47-1. Other sources describing the actions there are among Virginia newspapers, British reports, etc.; too numerous to mention here.

SIGNIFICANCE: Near this site on the beach stood the Pleasure House, a popular tavern for gambling and drinking in the early nineteenth century operated by Mr. Nimmo. During the War of 1812, the site was occupied on a regular basis by Virginia militia who used the second floor as an observation post to observe British movements in the Bay. The British attacked the house at least two times during the war, on 21 September and in late December 1813, on occasion setting it on fire and capturing several militiamen. It was never occupied for any length of time by the British. [Sources: Brit documents; *Norfolk Public Ledger*, Col. Preston Order Books in VHS]

POSSIBLE LOCATION OF MARKER: At the junction of Bayshore Drive and Northampton Avenue (US 13)