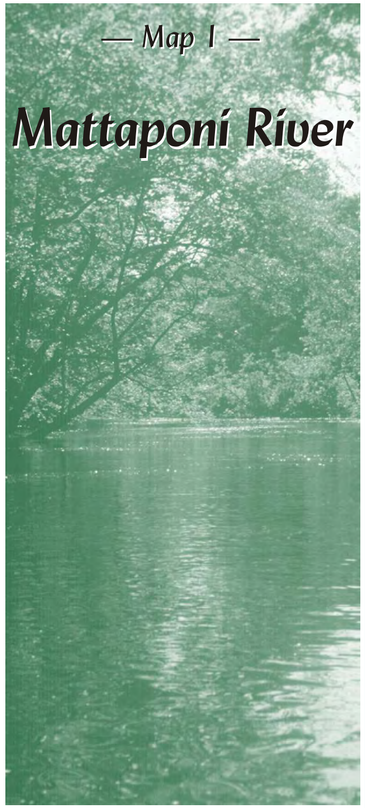

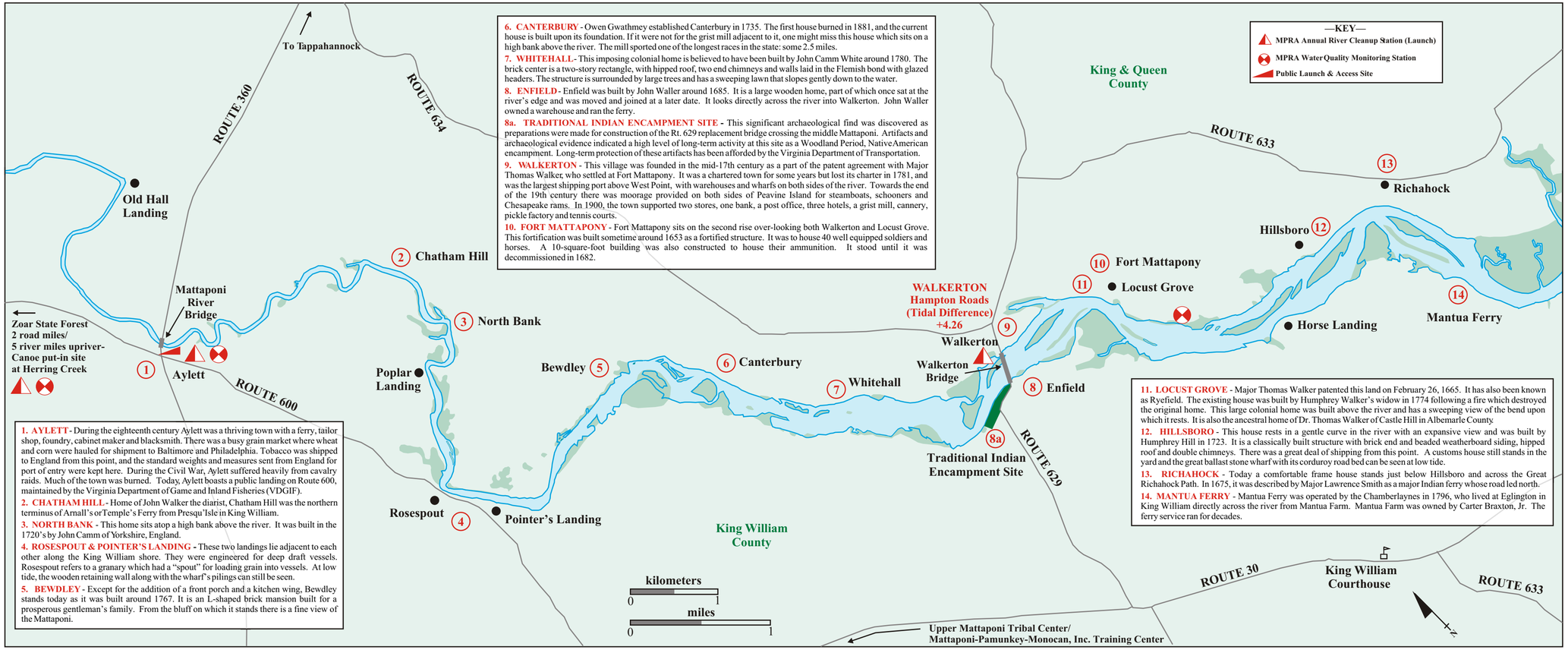

1. AYLETT - During the eighteenth century Aylett was a thriving town with a ferry, tailor shop, foundry, cabinet maker and blacksmith. There was a busy grain market where wheat and corn were hauled for shipment to Baltimore and Philadelphia. Tobacco was shipped to England from this point, and the standard weights and measures sent from England for port of entry were kept here. During the Civil War, Aylett suffered heavily from cavalry raids. Much of the town was burned. Today, Aylett boasts a public landing on Route 600, maintained by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF).

2. CHATHAM HILL - Home of John Walker the diarist, Chatham Hill was the northern terminus of Arnall's or Temple's Ferry from Presqu'Isle in King William.

3. NORTH BANK - This home sits atop a high bank above the river. It was built in the 1720's by John Camm of Yorkshire, England.

4. ROSESPOUT & POINTER'S LANDING - These two landings lie adjacent to each other along the King William shore. They were engineered for deep draft vessels. Rosespout refers to a granary which had a "spout" for loading grain into vessels. At low tide, the wooden retaining wall along with the wharf's pilings can still be seen.

5. BEWDLEY - Except for the addition of a front porch and a kitchen wing, Bewdley stands today as it was built around 1767. It is an L-shaped brick mansion built for a prosperous gentleman's family. From the bluff on which it stands there is a fine view of the Mattaponi.

6. CANTERBURY - Owen Gwathmey established Canterbury in 1735. The first house burned in 1881, and the current house is built upon its foundation. If it were not for the grist mill adjacent to it, one might miss this house which sits on a high bank above the river. The mill sported one of the longest races in the state: some 2.5 miles.

7. WHITEHALL - This imposing colonial home is believed to have been built by John Camm White around 1780. The brick center is a two-story rectangle, with hipped roof, two end chimneys and walls laid in the Flemish bond with glazed headers. The structure is surrounded by large trees and has a sweeping lawn that slopes gently down to the water.

8. ENFIELD - Enfield was built by John Waller around 1685. It is a large wooden home, part of which once sat at the river's edge and was moved and joined at a later date. It looks directly across the river into Walkerton. John Waller owned a warehouse and ran the ferry.

8a. TRADITIONAL INDIAN ENCAMPMENT SITE - This significant archaeological find was discovered as preparations were made for construction of the Rt. 629 replacement bridge crossing the middle Mattaponi. Artifacts and archaeological evidence indicated a high level of long-term activity at this site as a Woodland Period, Native American encampment. Long-term protection of these artifacts has been afforded by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

9. WALKERTON - This village was founded in the mid-17th century as a part of the patent agreement with Major Thomas Walker, who settled at Fort Mattapony. It was a chartered town for some years but lost its charter in 1781, and was the largest shipping port above West Point, with warehouses and wharfs on both sides of the river. Towards the end of the 19th century there was moorage provided on both sides of Peavine Island for steamboats, schooners and Chesapeake rams. In 1900, the town supported two stores, one bank, a post office, three hotels, a grist mill, cannery, pickle factory and tennis courts.

10. FORT MATTAPONY - Fort Mattapony sits on the second rise over-looking both Walkerton and Locust Grove. This fortification was built sometime around 1653 as a fortified structure. It was to house 40 well equipped soldiers and horses. A 10-square-foot building was also constructed to house their ammunition. It stood until it was decommissioned in 1682.

11. LOCUST GROVE - Major Thomas Walker patented this land on February 26, 1665. It has also been known as Ryefield. The existing house was built by Humphrey Walker's widow in 1774 following a fire which destroyed the original home. This large colonial home was built above the river and has a sweeping view of the bend upon which it rests. It is also the ancestral home of Dr. Thomas Walker of Castle Hill in Albemarle County.

12. HILLSBORO - This house rests in a gentle curve in the river with an expansive view and was built by Humphrey Hill in 1723. It is a classically built structure with brick end and beaded weatherboard siding, hipped roof and double chimneys. There was a great deal of shipping from this point. A customs house still stands in the yard and the great ballast stone wharf with its corduroy road bed can be seen at low tide.

13. RICHAHOCK - Today a comfortable frame house stands just below Hillsboro and across the Great Richahock Path. In 1675, it was described by Major Lawrence Smith as a major Indian ferry whose road led north.

14. MANTUA FERRY - Mantua Ferry was operated by the Chamberlaynes in 1796, who lived at Eglington in King William directly across the river from Mantua Farm. Mantua Farm was owned by Carter Braxton, Jr. The ferry service ran for decades.