



Overnight Guests,
Tea Room and Gift Shop

At the
Sign of Ye Bull's Head

RICHARD BLAND TAVERN

(The Bland-Wetherburn House)

Duke of Gloucester St.
Williamsburg, Va.

*"Bedde and Board for
Man and Beaste"*

STEP BACK TWO HUNDRED YEARS

BEHIND the great front door with its antique knocker you will find the hospitality which once welcomed George Washington. The hospitality, like the house itself, is unchanged. The welcome—yours.

Gracious dignity awaits you in the "*Middle Room.*" Here you may forget the mad rush beyond the sheltering walls, and dream of powdered wigs, of candlelight, and gay romances. Or, if you would dream in all seriousness, you may have your choice of the East Room, the Porch Chamber, the Great Room, and others. You will find in them, Tester beds, trundle beds, and—perhaps by some accident—one of modern design, should you prefer it. The Ghosts are most considerate, and will leave you with nothing more disturbing than freshened body and a lively appetite. Oh, we know you would stay for breakfast. The prospect of Southern white corn egg-bread, country sausage, and coffee IS inviting.

And here is a treat for you: We enter the "*Bull Head Room.*" most famous in the house, where Washington dined so frequently with many another notable of his day. Here, travel stained guests have pledged the health and long life of the house, the walls resounding with merriment. Even now, if you listen, you may hear the echo. The bull above the mantel looks down with grave approval. And whenever a toast is called, "*To the Bull,*" his placid eyes seem to liven as though to respond with as hearty a toast, "*Good Eating.*"



"An ordinary is a place for you and your horse to stop and have a bite. But a tavern is a place for you and your horse to stop, eat and stay all night."

FACTS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO REMEMBER

THIS old house was owned by Theodoric Bland, grandfather of Richard Bland who was born here in 1710. Richard Bland was a member of the House of Burgesses and of the First Continental Congress. This property was sold May 22, 1716 by his father, Richard Bland, Sr., to Nathaniel Harrison, father of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and great-great-grandfather of President William Henry Harrison. In 1734 it was sold to Henry Wetherburn, a noted tavern keeper who added the "*new part*" of the house and opened it as a tavern. He was also the first keeper of the Raleigh Tavern.

According to the inventory taken at the time of Henry Wetherburn's death the tavern was furnished with many rare pieces of old furniture. It is also interesting to note that there were over 200 pieces of pewter in the kitchen.

The cellar was well filled with rare wines and was especially noted for its arrack. William Randolph of "*Tuckahoe*" sold to Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson, 200 acres of land in consideration of the "*biggest bowl of Henry Wetherburn's arrack punch*".

At the Bull Head Tavern, merchants of the early colonies, calling themselves the "*Cape Company*", held their annual meetings. The Ohio Company met here in 1752. And here, too, Governor Dinwiddie was banqueted on his arrival as colonial governor of Virginia in 1751.

George Washington mentions in his diary having spent the evening, dined or supped in this historical old house twelve times from the period of 1771 to 1774.

For reservations communicate with,
Telephone 17-W

MISS VIRGINIA BRUCE HAUGHWOUT, *Hostess.*