

## A. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

### 1. Brief History of the NFL

The Northampton Free Library in Nassawadox, Virginia was founded in 1993 by a group of concerned local residents to make library services more accessible to residents of an under served, low-income, high-illiteracy area: the Eastern Shore. As a registered nonprofit corporation, we provided those services for seven years with no state or county funding, completely on a donated materials and volunteer manning basis. Many of our nearly a thousand cardholders are poor or living on fixed incomes. The library's a source of information, enrichment, and recreation in their lives; a safe place for their children to study; an information resource for business and the community. See the next page for some photos of our current location and operations.



Current Location before We Rented It

In September of 2000, Nassawadox officially became the Northampton County branch of the Eastern Shore Public Library. We thus provide the only library services in this County, other than a small station library in Cape Charles. (We also have many patrons from southern Accomack County; we serve both counties.) We provide roughly two thousand customers, ranging from Town's End to New Church, access to a basic 15,000-volume in-house collection, access to the larger bicounty collection, nationwide interlibrary loan service, free internet access on two Gateway computers with 128K ISDN Internet access, free summer story hour programs for children, and other services.

The Friends of the NFL now number well over a hundred dues-paying members. They are led by a board of local residents. Our President, Lenore Hart Poyer, is a retired professional librarian and a well-known Virginia novelist. Other active Members include bankers, attorneys, housewives, artists, business owners, and retired military officers. The NFL has been a registered Virginia 501(c)(3) corporation since 1993.