

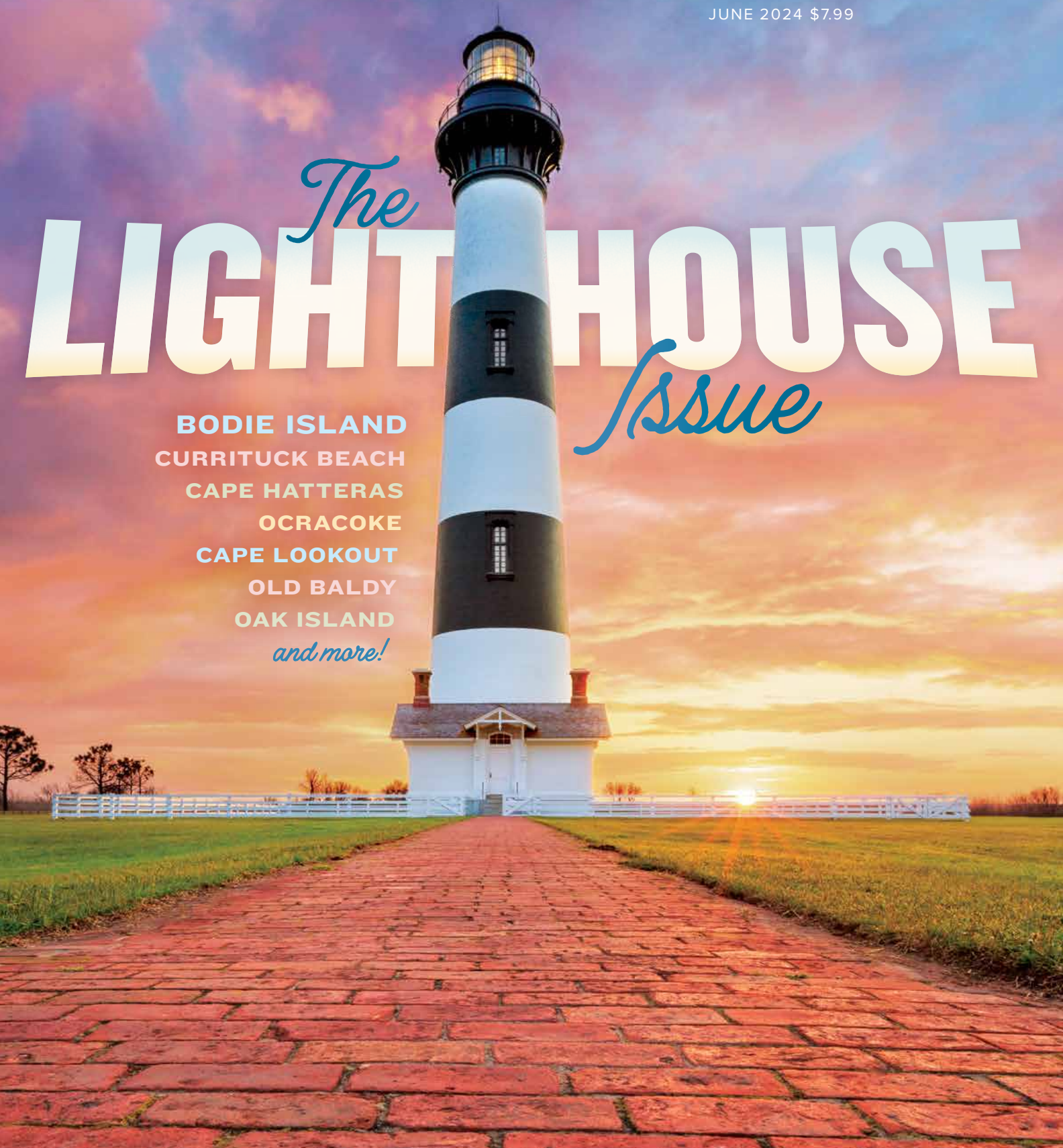
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## *The* **LIGHTHOUSE** *Issue*

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**HERTFORD**

# A Turtle's Pace

In Perquimans County, a tour of historic homes and landmarks pays tribute to a local mascot: reptilian residents that remind us that some of the best discoveries occur when we slow down.

Hertford natives remember counting turtles on a log visible from the old Perquimans River bridge. On the Turtle Walk, visitors tour historic structures like the circa-1825 county courthouse (bottom).

**G**enerations of Hertford natives learned how to count while crossing the historic S-Bridge on the Perquimans River. Below, turtles lined up to sunbathe on a partially submerged tree trunk. Imagine: Mom drives over the bridge and asks her kids, *How many turtles do you see today?*

The 93-year-old bridge — named for its curves — and adjoining causeway were replaced in October 2022. The turtle log is no longer visible when

driving over the new bridge, but Hertford's reptile mascot is now honored on the Turtle Walk tour, which highlights 18 homes and a handful of town landmarks.

Most of the houses on the tour are located along North Church and Front streets. One notable stop — the Wood-McCallum-Winslow House, an early 19th-century residence with a Federal-style entrance — holds a special piece of town history. Still visible in the



building's posterior is a hole made by a cannonball. It's been there since 1862, when troops led by Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside fired three shots on Hertford. The homeowners used Plexiglass to preserve the hole, and it has become a favorite stop on the tour.

While on the walk downtown, children can find green turtles painted on the sidewalk as their parents lead them toward iconic spots, including Woodard's Pharmacy for a freshly squeezed orangeade and the Perquimans County Courthouse — the second-oldest courthouse still in use in North Carolina. The tour is designed to remind locals and tourists that, like a turtle sunbathing on a log, they can enjoy life at a slow and steady pace. — *Chloe Klingstedt*



**PERQUIMANS COUNTY  
HISTORY MUSEUM**

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