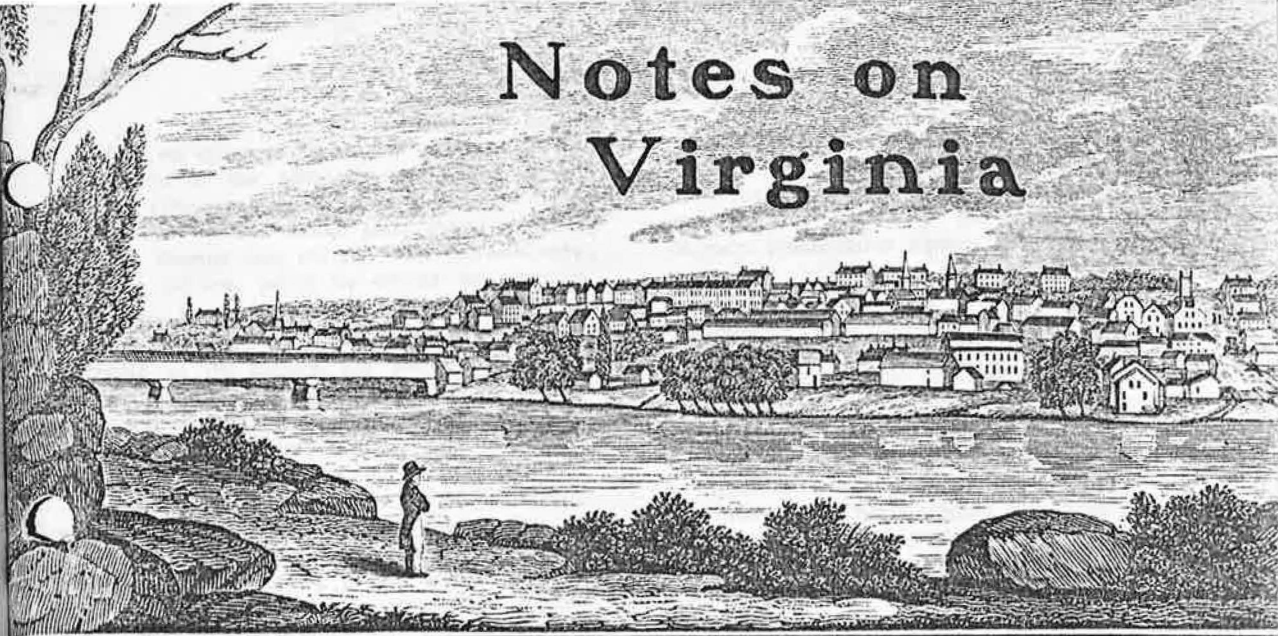


Notes on Virginia



PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Number 9 Spring 1974

TOWARDS THE QUADRICENTENNIAL*

During the Bicentennial, as We the People contemplate the era of Independence and nation making, the attention of many will be drawn to the Old Dominion, to those buildings and sites that were the homes of, or otherwise closely identified with, the great personages known to history as the Virginia Founding Fathers. Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe; Mason and Henry; the Lees and Randolphs and Tylers; Wythe, Marshall, Pendleton and Taylor; the Carters, Braxtons, and Nelsons . . . Awesome.

Liberty or Death; two great declarations from the Virginia Convention — that of Independence introduced at Philadelphia by a gentleman from Westmoreland County, and given immortal form by his colleague from Albemarle; the other, from the pen of George Mason of Gunston Hall remaining today the basis of law in the Commonwealth. The Father of his Country, victorious at Yorktown and the first among the Virginia Dynasty of Presidents; the Father of the Constitution; and its expositor, the Great Chief Justice . . . each one of them a product, and in every sense representative of, a specific, historically-identifiable social order which,

having evolved over the course of the Old Dominion's first century, persisted into the Jeffersonian era and beyond.

The General Assembly has established an ad hoc Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission for the commemoration of an extraordinary generation's great heroism and high purpose in first articulating and then vindicating, at great risk to their lives and fortunes, our national principles. But the Virginia Founding Fathers were also the natural leaders of their counties and collectively, of that well-integrated, culturally harmonious, rural and agricultural Commonwealth that had matured along the shores of the southern Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

"When we of the South return today to the site of old Jamestown," Wesley Craven has written, "it is to think of some of the first men and influences to give shape to a Southern way of life [for] Virginia was destined to serve as mother colony and state. Her way of life would be carried near and far by emigrant sons who in their new homes adapted it to their immediate requirements." Physical reminders of heroic individuals are reminders also of the cultural fulcrum, anecdotes suggest epics, incidents are related to institutions.

*A sketch of the history and present state of preservation in Virginia will appear in the next issue of Notes, as a sequel to this article.

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TOWARDS THE QUADRICENTENNIAL

(Continued from page 1)

When we return to the site of old Jamestown, or to any of the other physical remains of colonial times in Virginia, it is to think of those men and influences which gave shape to what Jack P. Greene has called "that extraordinary political culture, which by almost any criteria has rarely been equaled and never surpassed in American history." In addition to being highly symbolic of its culture, the basic institutions and structures of plantation and farm, county court and church, are representative of all major segments of that society.

Virginia, in the course of its first 200 years, witnessed the rise and fall of an empire, and the earliest phase of the great American frontier experience. The history of the former may be traced from Jamestown, the site of the first successful English colonization, to Yorktown, a short distance across the Peninsula, where, in 1781, the dissolution of the first British Empire was assured. Virginia's pioneer era may be traced from the fort erected in Surry County by Captain John Smith to one of its collateral descendants of the latter-eighteenth century, the Kilgore Fort House, a fortified residence in Scott County.

GAZETTE

VHLC Executive Director Junius R. Fishburne, by appointment of the Governor, Virginia's liaison with the federal government on matters relating to historic preservation, has recently been selected to membership on the Executive Committee of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Architectural historians Calder Loth and Jack Finglass attended the Association for Preservation Technology annual meeting held last fall in Boston. The VHLC representatives were able to share experiences with other delegates from throughout the United States and Canada, and to hear from experts in various fields of recent advances in the technology of restoration. Mr. Loth was elected to the APT Executive Board at this meeting.

VHLC Archaeologist William Kelso delivered papers on the VHLC's program in historical archaeology at conferences held by two national archaeological organizations: the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology.

The approaching bicentennial of a glorious era should not be allowed to obscure the density of history, the epic nature of our past. And so the General Assembly has provided for an historic preservation agency with a more inclusive and long range mandate. The Historic Landmarks Commission, through its staff, is engaged in a continuing survey of structures and sites that relate to the life and times of Virginians over four centuries as they moved from Hampton Roads to Cumberland Gap, and from Colony to Commonwealth.

The following framework for Virginia history is intended to accommodate all buildings and sites included in the Virginia Landmarks Register. Suggestions are invited, for the expansion and/or refinement of these categories where necessary, in the interest of providing an ever-broadening perspective for those dedicated to the perpetuation of "structures and areas which have a close and immediate relationship to the values upon which this State and the Nation were founded."



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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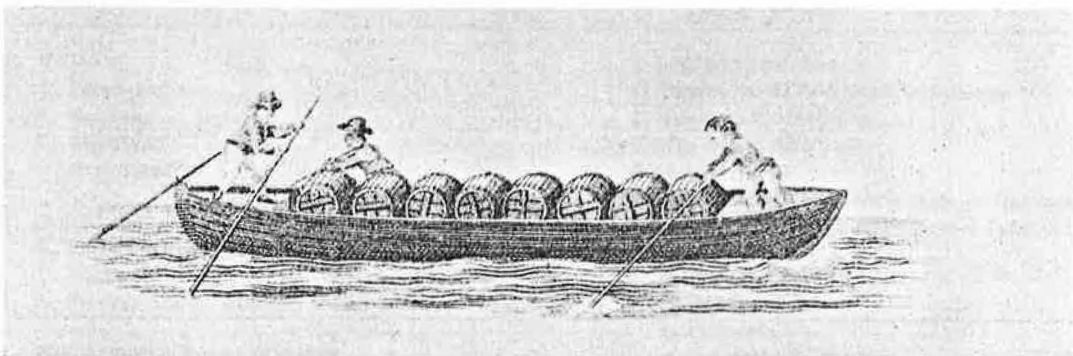
J. R. Fishburne
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NOTES ON VIRGINIA

Morson's Row
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(All photos by VHLC staff, except where noted)



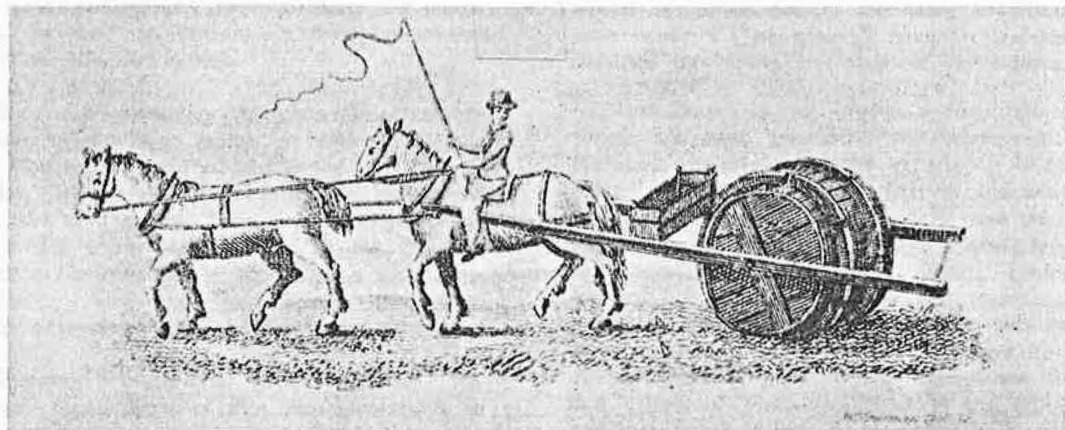
Tobacco may have been, as King James caustically charged, "loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose and harmful to the brain." It was, for all that, a "democratic" staple with rather more subtle, and ultimately more significant, cultural qualities. Tobacco required a far smaller capital investment than was true of any other colonial staple. "We here in Virginia," an 18th century Virginian observed, "may be said to be all of one trade, namely planters." Numerous contemporaries reiterated and elaborated on the theme: the "arts and mysteries" of the intricate and demanding tobacco culture were shared by families on all levels of society. Virginians were affected indiscriminately by the destruction of a crop through inclement weather or the interruption of the tobacco fleet due to European wars.

Aubrey Land has written definitively on the

evolution of the great planter-entrepreneurs of the Chesapeake colonies. They had unique advantages and wealth, and "Yet they were also planters, not a class set above but an integral part of planting society sharing its prejudices [attitudes, symbols, mores, relationships] experiencing its misfortunes, and receiving its rewards as planters . . ." This distinguished historian concludes: "probably never since in American history has top wealth enjoyed a more harmonious relationship with the rest of society than in eighteenth-century Virginia."

Scale of production was a socially significant aspect of life in this rural and agricultural world where the care and judgment necessary for the successful cultivation of the crop kept the tobacco units small. Experience and knowledge of the basic economic operations were

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THEMATIC OUTLINE FOR LANDMARKS
(Continued from page 3)

- I. INDIANS
 - A. Paleo-Indians
 - B. Archaic
 - C. Woodland
 - D. Historical
- II. DISCOVERY AND COLONIZATION
 - A. Early Settlement of the Tidewater and Piedmont
 - B. Pioneer Era of Western Virginia
- III. THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
 - A. Plantation System and Farming Through Independence
 - B. Plantation System and Farming: National Period
 - C. Commercial and Manufacturing Facilities for an Agricultural Economy
 - D. Rural Life
- IV. THE URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY
 - A. Domestic Architecture of the Towns and Cities
 - B. Urban Amenities
 - C. Finance and Trade, Manufacturing and Industry
 - D. Transportation
- V. CULTURE
 - A. Education
 - B. Literary and Artistic
- C. Crafts and Professions
 - 1. Agricultural Arts and Technology
 - 2. Learned Professions
- D. Crafts and Professions:
 - Architecture
 - 1. Works of Notable Architects or Designers
 - 2. Representative Structures of a Type or Period
 - a. Pre-Georgian
 - b. Georgian
 - c. Federal
 - d. Romantic Revivals
 - e. Late-Victorian and Twentieth Century
 - 3. Vernacular and Folk Tradition
 - 4. Landscape Architecture
- E. Places of Public Accommodation
- F. Religious Institutions
- G. Non-English Community and Culture
 - 1. Europeans
 - 2. Africans
- VI. POLITICAL CULTURE
 - A. The County Court, with Related and Successor Institutions of Local Government
 - B. Representatives of the Political Culture
 - 1. The Virginia Founding Fathers
 - 2. Notable Individuals and Families
- VII. MILITARY AFFAIRS
 - A. General
 - B. Colonial and Revolutionary Wars
 - C. War Between the States

shared by large planter and small, men of both races, and the women too, who functioned in this rural society as administrators and managers, as well as performing their preeminent roles as wife and mother.

The average black Virginian, unlike his fellows in the West Indies, or Sea Islands, or Rice Coast, lived and worked in the proximity of whites, in relatively equal numbers. He shared with the whites the "arts and mysteries," if not a just share of the fruits, of the Old Dominion's basic economic activity, as well as a familiarity with the field sports and other social activities of the countryside.

Economic historians often overlook the cultural implications of this relationship. It is not unimportant to observe with Hugh Jones that native Virginia Negroes of the early 18th century

"generally talk good English without idiom or tone." A century later, William Henry Foote would articulate one of the basic realities of that world: "[The blacks] have in a measure moulded the habits and manners of Virginia."

The landmarks of Virginia's first two centuries and more are, with only occasional exceptions, as relevant to the experience of black Virginians as they are to that of the whites. For every exception — such as a rare African survival or an institution related specifically to the harsher and, by their nature, periodic, aspects of slavery — there are hundreds of buildings and sites in the Tidewater and Piedmont that were the occasions or places for the events that, in combination, formed the lives and labors of most Virginians of the colonial and early National eras.

THEMATIC OUTLINE FOR LANDMARKS

(Continued from page 4)

The cultural tradition, political, social, and economic forms of Tidewater moved progressively westward until, by the mid-eighteenth century, they came into contact with other northwestern European peoples in the Valley. The Scotch-Irish and Germans, with their non-English orders of worship, and non-Tidewater forms of agriculture and architecture, would represent and remain the first significant cultural variation within a heretofore highly integrated, if geographically dispersed, community.

As these peoples of the Valley were also rural and agricultural, the county, that microcosm of the Commonwealth, proved adequate to the task of bringing them within the greater society, while preserving their autonomy. During the early years of the Republic, however, a movement away from the inherited, homogeneous economic order began. As this movement accelerated during ante-bellum times, divergent and disparate groups of self-conscious "others" appeared in Virginia — much as John Taylor of "Hazelwood" in Caroline County predicted they would.

Such groups were to be found in association with the larger scale industries, commercial and banking functions of an urbanizing society, but also in less obvious places. Independent Negro churches, corporations, and educational

institutions, for example, are among the tangible, post-Appomattox symbols of freedom that have also the aspect of a movement away from an integrated society. The appearance at the turn-of-the-century of recognizably modern writers, such as Ellen Glasgow and James Branch Cabell of Richmond, represents an analoguous "moving away."

Whatever else may be inferred from the dearth of major literary figures in the South during the era of Hawthorne and the great writers of the New England Renaissance, it is surely a sign that culture here was not yet bifurcated, that creative people continued to feel themselves as extensions of or contained by the community. Art, in such a world, is a part of life, produced and, like the culinary delicacies of the country, "commonly consumed at home."

Landmarks of certain aspects of the social history of the Old Dominion may be overlooked because their colonial or ante-bellum functions are not self-evident to the modern mind. For instance, while there were no exceptional hotels or inns in early Virginia, there was, as Robert Beverley stated the matter, "The most Good-nature, and Hospitality practis'd in the World, both towards Friends and Strangers."

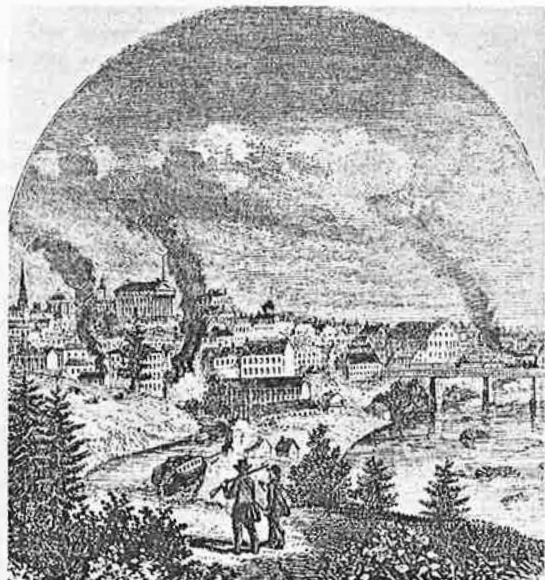
(Continued on page 6)



"Mount Vernon" — Courtesy Virginia State Library

History records no fine restaurants in colonial or ante-bellum Virginia, and yet the country was renowned for its toothsome cuisine. "No judgment can be formed of the meats of the country from the publick markets" a New Englander wrote from Southside, "for the best are commonly consumed at home." Perceptive contemporaries understood the relative importance of private against public accommodations better than those "prudish intellectuals," whom Francis Butler Simkins found to be "too unimaginative to understand a traditional civilization like that of Virginia."

"For the Virginians the family was everything, society and government were but the family writ large." Although less adequately treated in the literature than the political culture or economy, the role and functions of the Virginia family represents yet another area wherein historians substantially agree with one another and with the folk traditions. Professor Simkins wrote of Virginia, through the early-20th century, as a "society in which religion, family, kinship, and custom supply needs in which a more thoroughly educated society must be supplied by artificial devices such as government and the school."



"Mid-19th Century Richmond"
Courtesy Virginia State Library

While the distinguishing landmarks of Virginia's more recent past highlight the mid-nineteenth century as a social and cultural watershed, certain phenomena, usually associated with the urban-industrial order, had long been observable. Indian trails were evolving through a turnpike phase into highways, and the towns that had grown up around cabins or courthouse were on their way to becoming cities. Whole communities were bypassed by progress — whether in the form of revolutionary developments in transportation or industrial techniques, or the changing needs and dreams of the younger generation.

Jamestown — the premier community of early Virginia, the very seedplot for a way of life — would not survive the seventeenth century, given an unhealthy location and the loss of her political and social functions. The pattern would be repeated at Williamsburg and other colonial centers, where growth had been artificially induced by the political needs of the British Empire. Other towns, like Norfolk, even though ravaged by fire and neglect, rebounded with the expanding economy of the early-nineteenth century.

The Virginia Landmarks Register documents glorious and tragic epochs and heroic personages, but also the evolving forms of everyman's domestic life and labor. We are reminded by the impending Bicentennial of the greatness of Virginia's contribution to the making of the American nation, but "how many people have the historic imagination to realize that [this nation] must be the greatest single, homogeneous achievement of modern history?"

Its appeal is epic rather than dramatic: a slower moving, in some ways a more subtle, appeal to the imagination . . . As one approaches the coast of America, one is touched to tears to think of all the effort and endurance, the sacrifice of men's lives that went into it, the hundreds of thousands of forgotten simple men along with the forgotten . . ."

It is to be hoped that many share the sentiments, and something of the historic imagination, expressed here by the great historian of the Elizabethan Age, A. L. Rowse.

The General Assembly has directed the Landmarks Commission to prepare — with periodic publication — a register of historical, architectural, and archaeological buildings and sites within the Commonwealth which are of statewide or national significance. The Commission's staff began preparation of nominations during the fall of 1968; by the end of March 1974, 504 properties had been approved for addition to the Virginia Register.

The VHLC's Nominations Committee is composed of persons experienced in the fields of history, architecture, landscape architecture, and archaeology. After review and endorsement by this committee, nominations are presented to the Commission for its approval. As all Virginia landmarks are of statewide or national significance, each is nominated, in turn, to the National Register of Historic Places.

An installment of the Virginia Landmarks Register, containing brief statements on each of the then 213 registered properties, was published in July, 1970. This publication, no longer in print, is to be superseded by a comprehensive edition of the Register. Notes on Virginia was initiated, in the Spring of 1971, as a means for the interim publication, as required by law, of "appropriate information concerning the registered buildings and sites."

The twenty-one most recent additions to the Register were:

TIDEWATER

BELLE AIR, CHARLES CITY COUNTY: This is a rare and well-preserved example of William and Mary period vernacular architecture, indicative of the transition from the Jacobean to the more formalized designs of the eighteenth century. The Belle Air property was in the mid-seventeenth century a portion of the 1700 acre plantation of Thomas Stegge II.

HESSE, MATHEWS COUNTY: This was the seat of the Armisteads, a prominent colonial Virginia family. The present house probably dates from the second quarter of the eighteenth century, and is a classic example of Tidewater plantation architecture, particularly as expressed in the Mathews and Gloucester County area.

RIDDICK HOUSE, SUFFOLK: This was the home of the Riddick family, prominent citizens of

Suffolk and Nansemond County, until recent years, and survives as an outstanding example of Greek Revival townhouse architecture.

BOUSH-TAZEWELL HOUSE, NORFOLK: The Boush-Tazewell House survives as an outstanding and rare example of a formal, late-Georgian town mansion, and is associated with several prominent Virginians, most notably, Littleton Waller Tazewell. It was removed from harbor-side in downtown Norfolk to its present location overlooking the Elizabeth River around the turn-of-the-century.



"Weblin House"

WEBLIN HOUSE, VIRGINIA BEACH: This is one of a small, but architecturally important collection of pre-Georgian era vernacular farm houses of old Princess Anne County, now the City of Virginia Beach. Unlike its distinguished contemporaries, the Thoroughgood, Wishart, and Keeling Houses, this property retains its rural setting.

GLOUCESTER WOMAN'S CLUB, GLOUCESTER COUNTY: This fine, mid-eighteenth century Virginia vernacular structure has long been the headquarters for the Gloucester Woman's Club. Known today as Long Bridge Ordinary, both its floor plan and location at the junction of two important early roads suggest commercial origins.

SYCAMORE TAVERN, HANOVER COUNTY: Long a familiar landmark to travellers along the old Mountain Road (Route 33), the building served as the fourth stagecoach stop on the way from Charlottesville to Richmond. Thomas Nelson Page founded a library here in honor of his wife, which is, along with the old tavern, still maintained by the trust fund established by the author.



"Oakland"

OAKLAND, HANOVER COUNTY: This was the birthplace and home of Thomas Nelson Page, and much of his best work as a novelist was derived from the people, events, descriptions, and legends of the plantation and surrounding countryside.

PIEDMONT

COBHAM PARK, ALBEMARLE COUNTY: Cobham Park is one of the best preserved and most beautifully sited ante-bellum estates in Virginia, complete with grazing fields and woodlands. Both the superbly landscaped park and the mansion were, when established in the 1850's, and remain today, architectural anachronisms constructed in the manner of the eighteenth century.



"Cobham Park"

FAIRFAX COUNTY COURT HOUSE: The court and its valuable historic records were moved here in 1800 from Alexandria following the latter's incorporation into the Federal District. The building, a modified town-hall type structure, was the prototype for several other Virginia court houses and provides an example of the transition from colonial to Roman Revival court architecture.

BENTFIELD, BRUNSWICK COUNTY: The impressive brick mansion, constructed in 1810, is — given the number, general location and arrangement of its outbuildings and gardens — a significant example of the Federal style in plantation architecture, especially as adapted to Southside by local craftsmen.

GOOSE CREEK MEETING HOUSE COMPLEX, LOUDOUN COUNTY: Located at the southern edge of the picturesque hamlet of Lincoln, the Goose Creek complex symbolizes the continuity of the Quaker tradition in Northern Virginia. In addition to an early Quaker cemetery and school, there are two historic meeting houses: the one dating from 1765 is Virginia's second oldest; while its successor, a brick structure dating from 1817, remains active.

OATLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT, LOUDOUN COUNTY: Oatland Mills, Mountain Gap School, and the Church of Our Savior, all historically related to the National Trust's elaborate manor house with its extensive gardens and numerous outbuildings, are now protected from incompatible development and available to the public as a visually integrated ensemble.

WINTON, AMHERST COUNTY: Winton is a late Georgian, two story frame structure of considerable architectural merit that was the homeplace of noteworthy Virginians including Patrick Henry's mother, Sarah Winston Henry, who is buried here.

CATOCTIN CREEK BRIDGE, LOUDOUN COUNTY: This well-maintained, 150' long single span structure serves a shaded unpaved country lane bordered by well-tended farms and estates. The metal truss, like the covered bridges they superseded, are a fast-disappearing transportation landmark.



"Catoctin Creek Bridge"

MOUNTAIN & VALLEY

STUART HALL (Main Building), STAUNTON: Distinguished in its own right, as an example of Greek Revival academic architecture, Old Main is the campus focal point for Virginia's oldest girls' preparatory school. Incorporated in 1843 as the Virginia Female Institute, the school was eventually renamed for its post-bellum headmistress, Flora (Mrs. J. E. B.) Stuart.



"John Fox, Jr. House"

JOHN FOX, JR. HOUSE, WISE COUNTY: John Fox, Jr. lived and wrote here, drawing inspiration for The Trail of the Lonesome Pine and related novels from the people and culture of the surrounding mountain regions. The house achieved its rambling quality and present dimensions in the course of several additions designed to accommodate several of the Fox children and their families.

SANTILLANE, BOTETOURT COUNTY: As befits a property long occupied by influential county families, this Greek Revival farm house occupies a commanding site overlooking the historic county seat community of Fincastle.

MONTCALM, WASHINGTON COUNTY: Originally a Federal-style farm house built in 1827 for David Campbell, sometime Governor of Virginia, Montcalm was extensively renovated earlier in this century. The property was for many years the residence of Colonel Arthur C. Cummings, a member of the House of Delegates.

BUENA VISTA, ROANOKE: An imposing Greek Revival plantation house, built in the style favored by ante-bellum planters of the region, Buena Vista occupies a prominent urban site, now used by the City of Roanoke as a park and recreation center.

SIDNA ALLEN HOUSE, CARROLL COUNTY: Set in a commanding position in the hills of Carroll County, the Sidna Allen House is a richly ornamented example of a rural Queen Anne style house. The house was confiscated by the State, and its owner-designer incarcerated following the Allen Clan's participation in the notorious Hillsville massacre of 1912.



Mrs. John O. Peters, part-time research historian, with students at Robert E. Lee School, Richmond. Mrs. Peters developed the VHLC's pilot project for teaching architecture appreciation to children in the primary schools. (Photo by Leith Wood).

The chairman, commission, and staff members of the VHLC visited Surry County to participate in the ceremonial dedication of the Virginia Historic Landmark plaque for BACON'S CASTLE. Preservation of the renowned seventeenth-century mansion seems assured now that the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has purchased the property.

Commission and staff members were also in attendance at dedicatory ceremonies in Richmond marking restoration of Tidewater Connection locks of the JAMES RIVER AND KANAWHA CANAL, and the official opening by the Garden Club of Virginia of its State headquarters the KENT-VALENTINE HOUSE. The Reynolds Metals Company owns the restored canal locks, which, along with complementary historical exhibits are open to the public.

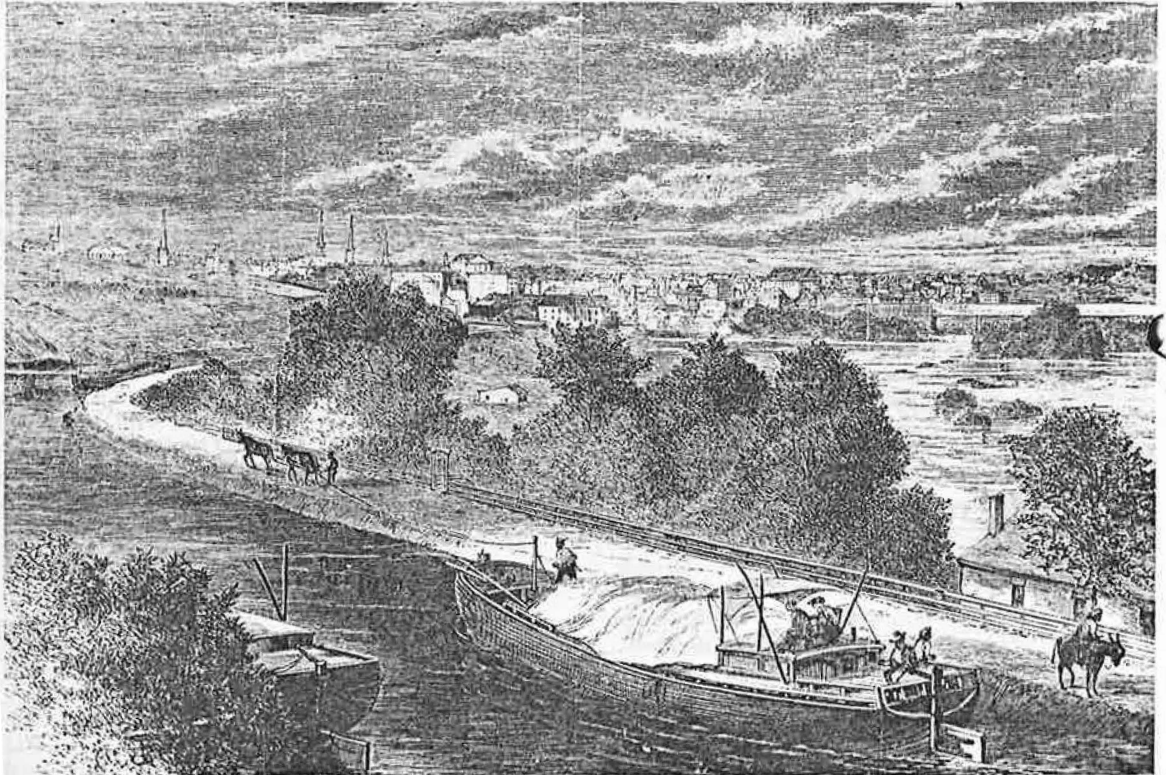
Following two years of restoration by the City of Richmond, MAYMONT has again been opened to the public. The three story Edwardian mansion with its extensive gardens and grounds was willed to the city by the Dooley family.

Mrs. Athalie Irving Smith purchased the monumental BEVERLEY MILL, Prince William County, which is to be restored by the Bull Run Preserve.

MAYFIELD, Dinwiddie County, is being offered for sale by the Historic Petersburg Foundation. Partial exterior restoration has been completed, and the historic character of the property is protected by an open-space easement.

The Jacob Ruff House is the third building within the LEXINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT, Rockbridge County, to be restored with funds provided from the revolving fund of the Historic Lexington Foundation.

The future of EARP'S ORDINARY, long a familiar landmark in the historic courthouse community of Fairfax, is vastly improved by City council's acquisition of the diminutive vernacular structure.



"Along the James River & Kanawha Canal"
 Courtesy Virginia State Library

THREATENED and REPRIEVED: During the past year, four warehouses within Richmond's **SCHOCKOE SLIP HISTORIC DISTRICT** were destroyed by fire, a loss partially offset by the adaptation for use as a restaurant of the handsomely restored Exchange Building.

The old tavern building, a component of the **LUNENBURG COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT**, has been demolished.

MARGOT'S (also known as **EAGLE'S NEST**), Charles City County, a pre-Georgian brick farmhouse, has been acquired by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The **VHLC** is to assist in preservation of the structure.

The fate of Norfolk's Selden House remains uncertain. The ante-bellum frame structure, a part of the **WEST FREEMASON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT**, was severely damaged by fire last spring.

The **CARTERSVILLE BRIDGE** Association now holds title to remnants of the historic bridge formerly connecting Goochland and Cumberland Counties. The Association and State Highway Department had an agreement-in-principle concerning the stabilized stone piers and two spans of the structure left standing after tropical storm Agnes, but uncertain lines of federal authority over "obstructions to navigation" impeded the transfer.

BRICKS and MORTAR: Federal Assistance is available (PL 89-665) for restoration and preservation activities, including planning and acquisition, involving properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Virginia was awarded \$348,392 for Fiscal Year 1974, fifth highest grant to any State, federal district, or territory, but a small fraction only of the amount urgently needed for such projects throughout this historic Commonwealth.

Grants-in-aid are administered by the **VHLC**, which also determines the eligibility of specific projects in consultation with the office of the Keeper of the National Register, National Park Service. Grants will be recommended when there is assurance of matching capability (50% or more) on the part of the recipient,

and where the threatened property contributes significantly to the environment of a community, whether urban or rural.

Inquiries from principles are invited and should be submitted c/o Manager of Grants-in-Aid Program, **VHLC**, 221 Governor Street, Richmond 23219. Requests, with supporting materials, should be submitted no later than June 1, 1974, for projects, or segments thereof, scheduled to begin in 1975. Under terms of federal law, no funds are available for work completed or in progress at the time application is made for participation in the program.

Grants-in-aid projects being administered by the **VHLC** for the current fiscal year include:

The **Stonewall Jackson House** feasibility study, Lexington; **Kerr Place** restoration, Accomack County; **Belgian Building** restoration, Richmond; **Midway Mill** stabilization, Nelson County; **Gadsby's Tavern** restoration, Alexandria; **Weston Manor** restoration, Hopewell; **Levy Opera House** restoration, Charlottesville; **Merchant's Hope Church** restoration, Prince George County; **Old Virginia Military Institute Hospital** restoration, Lexington; **Sutherlin House** restoration, Danville; **Old Stone Warehouse** restoration, Fredericksburg; **Fluvanna County Court House** restoration; **Townfield** restoration, Caroline County; **Lynchburg Court House** restoration; **Merchant's Exchange** restoration, Petersburg; **Portsmouth Court House** restoration; **Whittle House** restoration, Norfolk; **Holloway House** restoration, Caroline County; **Hill House** restoration, Portsmouth; **William's Ordinary** restoration, Prince William County; **Shenandoah County Court House** restoration; **Morson's Row** restoration, Richmond; **Carlyle House** restoration, Alexandria; **McIlwaine House** restoration, Petersburg; **Old Log Cabin** restoration, Leesburg; **Loudoun County**; **Cushing Hall** restoration, Hampden-Sydney, Prince Edward County; **Page County Court House** restoration; **Sears House** restoration, Staunton; **Prestwold** outbuildings restoration, Mecklenburg County; **Mayfield** restoration, Dinwiddie County; **Jack's Creek Covered Bridge** restoration, Patrick County; **Crowder House** restoration, Botetourt County; **First Baptist Church** feasibility study, Richmond; **Burwell-Morgan Mill Miller's House** restoration, Clarke County; and **Bentfield** restoration, Brunswick County.

Benevolent activity abounds within the FREDERICKSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT due, in large part, to leadership provided by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation. Restoration projects are in progress, and the foundation has now begun a revolving fund for the purpose of acquiring and restoring significant buildings in need of attention. As is the case with other

such funds, the restored structures are protected by easements and then sold for residential or appropriate commercial use.

Restoration is progressing at ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, Middletown, Frederick County, where a campaign is under way to raise funds to rebuild the steeple.

OPEN-SPACE EASEMENTS

The VHLC has contributed significantly to the development of an open-space easements program as envisioned by the General Assembly and enacted in Chapters 11 and 13 of Title 10 of the Code of Virginia (Sections 10-135 to 145 and 10-151 to 10-158; with amendments enacted in the 1974 Regular Session). The VHLC staff has, for example, edited and designed the brochure currently in use by the three State agencies involved: the Landmarks Commission itself, the Commission on Outdoor Recreation, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

As the Commonwealth attempts to cope with the problems of diminishing countryside and threatened landmarks, instruments with a potential for the reconciliation of conflicting interests and competing needs, such as the open-space easement, are especially useful. Such easements attempt to guaranty that privately owned lands will be developed only in keeping with their historic or scenic character, primarily by means of insulating the owners of such properties from undue pressures to subdivide or commercially develop their lands.

The rights and usages of private ownership remain unimpaired, subject only to the restrictions agreed to in the easement. Where lands and buildings of historic and architectural significance are involved, the VHLC staff is able to render a variety of services to the property owner in the ways and means of appropriate preservation and construction activity.

Since February of 1969, when the VHLC accepted its first easement — for Old Mansion at Bowling Green in Caroline County — gifts of historic and scenic easements have been received for sixteen individual properties and a parcel of easements within the Waterford Historic

District. With the exception of BENTFIELD Brunswick County, each of the properties is within or near to the Alexandria-Richmond-Hampton Roads development corridor. Each — be it a scenic rural tract, or a suburban, or downtown urban property — is now less vulnerable to pressures resulting from rising taxes and competing land-use demands.

For the people of the Commonwealth, each easement represents a particular contribution to the overall program of open-space conservation and environmental protection. The Brooke's Bank, Gay Mont, and Nanzatico easements, for example, being initial contributions towards the preservation of the lower-Rappahannock Valley, represent more even than the sum of their parts. The Rappahannock is the least-spoiled of Virginia's tidal rivers and its banks are lined with innumerable historic sites and structures including several Registered Virginia Landmarks. An analogous situation exists in Waterford Loudoun County, where the owners of ten contiguous properties along the village's original streets have combined to help protect the visual integrity of their historic community.

The significance of preserving important downtown and suburban properties should be apparent to all readers of Notes. The Chimneys in Fredericksburg, with nearby Fall Hill and Carlton; the Hugo Black House, Alexandria; Kent-Valentine House, Richmond, with Woodside in Henrico County, and also Rock Castle, Goochland; The Petersburg-Dinwiddie County plantation house, Mayfield; Pleasant Hall in Virginia Beach; Lowland Cottage and Roaring Spring, both in Gloucester County across the York River from the Lower Peninsula are, each and all, examples of such properties currently protected by easements.

Grace Pierce Heffelfinger died on January 28, 1974, at the age of twenty-six from injuries sustained in a riding accident. She was employed by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission beginning in September, 1971, as a survey worker for Augusta County. From June, 1972, until her tragic death she served the Commission as a full-time architectural historian. She was devoted to her work and held historic preservation in high regard. Several score places were added to the Virginia Landmarks Register as a result of nominations she prepared. Recognition of these landmarks, together with thousands of photographs of historic properties taken by her during her brief tenure, are testimony to the quality of her work and service to the Commonwealth.

RESOLVED by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission that the Commission mourns the passing of Grace Pierce Heffelfinger. As a gesture of the respect in which she was held by this Commission, the Executive Director is instructed to forward a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to Jen Wade Heffelfinger, mother of Grace Pierce Heffelfinger, and Stephen Heffelfinger, her brother.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. Herman", written over a horizontal line.

Frederick Herman
Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julius R. Fishburne, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Julius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Executive Director

Burwell's Landing became the focus of archaeology during the summer and fall at Kingsmill Plantation, the ongoing archaeological project funded by Busch Development. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission's excavators uncovered the 18th century remains of a warehouse on the James River beach, a cluster of buildings with a well at the site of the Landing Ordinary and part of a Revolutionary War-Civil War fortification.

The landing was the center of considerable commercial and military activity during the 18th century. Col. Lewis Burwell, builder of nearby Kingsmill Plantation, carried out his duties as the Crown's Naval Officer at the Landing during the 18th century, inspecting all ships clearing to and from the Upper James. American guards exchanged shots with the British Navy in November 1775 at Burwell's and later built defenses which were captured by the Queen's Rangers in 1781.

The VHLC also conducted salvage excavations on the Governor's Land Archaeological District, near Jamestown. Planned development by the firm of Benschoten and Carter of Williamsburg prompted the work, a four day investigation of a late 17th century domestic refuse pit in the area of a house known to have been occupied by Joseph Pettit in 1683. Iberian majolica,



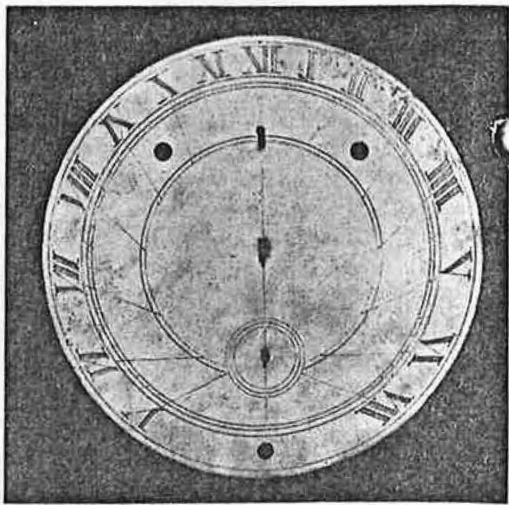
A 17th century Portugese majolica plate with a hand-painted rabbit motif found in a trash pit on Governor's Land near Jamestown during the course of a recent VHLC salvage excavation (restored, diameter 21.4 cm).

German stoneware, a brass sundial, and iron tools recovered from the pit speak to the standard of living of the Governor's 17th century tenants.

Another development project near Jamestown, at Jockey's Neck, will involve land that was the site of the 18th century Bland Plantation. A cooperative effort between the VHLC and the Williamsburg Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia found and tested the site, alerting development planners to its location and significance. The VHLC, ASV, and the Virginia Department of Highways are also considering a cooperative effort at the site of the eighteenth-century Quaker Meeting House at Penney Plantation in York County.

Edward Chappell, VHLC Assistant Archaeologist, recently concluded the salvage excavation of a circa 1800 refuse deposit discovered in construction of the Brandy Station bypass of Route 29 in Culpeper County. Important ceramics and metal objects were recovered dating from a period that has received little archaeological attention in Virginia.

In March, the VHLC surveyed land owned by Phillip Morris at Bermuda Hundred in Chesterfield County. The archaeological remains of an eighteenth-century Eppes family house were identified by test excavation, and these are



An engraved brass sundial from the Governor's Land trash pit, possible used by Joseph Pettit, one of Governor Berkeley's tenants, ca. 1680 (diameter 13.1 cm).

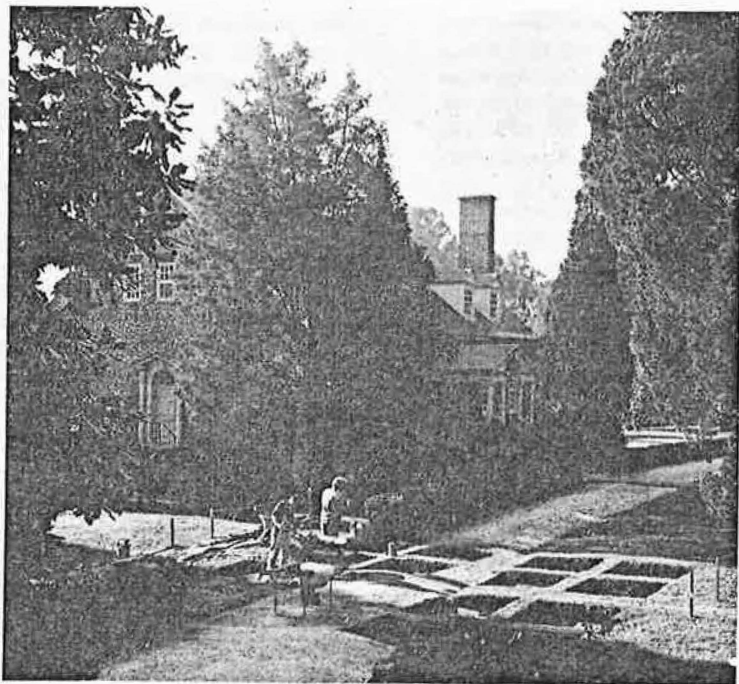
now to be left undisturbed during construction. VHLC workers, Chappell and Bernard Herman, have recently undertaken excavation at the seventeenth century Thomas Swann house site in Surry County to supplement historical information currently available for this major early mansion now being considered for nomination to the Register.

The VHLC Office of Archaeology is assisting the Valentine Museum in excavation of an early industrial site soon to be disturbed by urban redevelopment of the Fulton area of Richmond. Alain Outlaw, formerly of the Kingsmill crew, has undertaken a test excavation at the ante bellum Richmond Glass Works site, on the basis of historical research by James Gergat of the Valentine staff. The Messrs. Gergat and Chappell undertook a preliminary archaeological investigation of the site, and the project is being funded by the museum.

Under the Field supervision of Alain Outlaw the VHLC assisted the Board of Regents in an

archaeological investigation of outbuilding sites at Gunston Hall. Mr. Outlaw explored the remains of a possible kitchen structure and the remains of a smokehouse. The Office of Archaeology (Outlaw) also conducted a thorough survey of a portion of the Coast Guard reservation at Yorktown soon to be disturbed by road construction. The investigation establishes that the remains of the seventeenth century York Village will not be affected.

The VHLC has undertaken a photographic survey of significant historical artifacts in private collections. Messrs. Kelso and Chappell recently photographed the extensive eighteenth century Delft and glassware collection excavated by Mr. Ken Quinn in Hampton. An excavation, on behalf of the Colonial Dames, has been concluded at the site of Wilton Plantation on the James River near Richmond, where a variety of artifacts were recovered. As a result of this study more is now known about the mansion's early furnishings.



View showing the excavation of Structure A at Gunston Hall and its horizontal relationship to the Mansion. Photo from the north.