

Notes on Virginia

A PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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BERKLEY PLANTATION, Charles City County

Virginians As Pioneers

It is well to begin our Bicentennial ruminations on a note of sobriety—whether our attention is fixed on historic preservation or some other aspect of life in this two-hundred-year-old republic. In the year just passed, a year that commemorated the “shot heard round the world,” yet another portion of Virginia’s architectural and historic heritage was destroyed. And who can doubt that fire and the elements, selfishness and simple ignorance will continue to wreak havoc with historic properties even during this Bicentennial anniversary of 1776?

Yet we read and hear that identifying symbols are important to a community. More often than not, the greatest harm will be done by good people who simply misunderstand the implications and consequences of what they are about. Social scientists and planners aware of the great value in the human scale and humane fabric of older

structures will nevertheless support “practical” decisions that call for wholesale demolition. A “harried leisure class” appears to have little more time to reflect—or inclination to act—on such matters than did its pioneer ancestors.

Physical landmarks become increasingly more important as the very factors—oral traditions, relative stability of place, and regular gatherings of extended families—that formerly made the past present, have themselves become a part of the past. Virginia’s landmarks represent the accomplishments, hopes, and sorrows of the pioneers: of those who spoke for Liberty and Independence, of those who helped to develop a society and culture, and of those who helped it to evolve through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Historic landmarks are a cultural treasure, and here as elsewhere there are grounds for cautious optimism. We begin, in this issue of *Notes*, a series

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of articles dealing with some contemporary pioneers and with their activities in support of historic preservation. In appreciation of the vision and generosity of those persons who have given or are contemplating historic easements, we open with a comprehensive treatment of the easement program as it relates to historic properties.

Our next issue will treat of historic districts, with special attention to Jackson Ward in Richmond and the village of Waterford in Loudoun County—two of the more exciting examples of community-wide efforts to identify and preserve the buildings and sites that give a place character and personality. Here again, as is the case with easement properties, Virginians in general benefit from the accomplishments of those concerned with retaining, improving, and protecting the ambiance of their own small part of the world.

Good things are occurring also on the city and county level. Heretofore, elected officials, planners, and others concerned with prudent development have often had to rely on instinct or a partial view of the fabric of the community as the basis for deciding upon and enforcing appropriate

zoning; now a number of local governments are undertaking systematic surveys of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of historical, architectural, and archaeological significance.

Whether undertaken by the locality or the planning district, such surveys can be done at surprisingly modest expense. Surveyors so employed have complete access to the files and personnel of the Historic Landmarks Commission. The Commission has been able to provide professional supervision and review of projects at appropriate intervals.

Comprehensive surveys of historic and cultural resources, easements for preservation and conservation, application of municipal zoning authority within historic districts—in each instance, a traditional principle or device is being applied in an original fashion to cope with new and evolving situations. That, for the most part, is how pioneers have always functioned. It is particularly appropriate in this Virginia, which as an already Old Dominion once sired and nurtured a New Republic.

New Historic Easements

Deeds of easement have recently been recorded for a sizeable portion of Berkeley Plantation in Charles City County, for Toddsbury and Long Bridge Ordinary—both in Gloucester County, and for the Barret House in Richmond. Each easement represents a particular contribution to the Commonwealth's program of open-space conservation and environmental protection. For the owners of these landmarks something of great personal significance has been made more secure.

Berkeley

Berkeley on the James River is one of America's most historic properties. The house was built in 1726 by Benjamin Harrison and was the home of a later Benjamin Harrison who was both governor of Virginia and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. President William Henry Harrison was born at Berkeley. The plantation is a successor to the early-seventeenth-century Berkeley Hundred, and a near neighbor to Shirley, Westover, and other renowned landmarks along the Peninsula's historic and scenic Route 5.

Berkeley shared the fate of many another Tidewater property during the first century of the Republic. In 1842, after two generations of economic decline, this once "Great Plantation," a decayed and heavily mortgaged shadow of its former self, was sold by the Bank of the United States. Twenty years later, the camp fires of the Army of the Potomac were to consume every tree but one along the three-mile river front at Berkeley—a fitting symbol to yet another form of destruction visited on eastern Virginia during the nineteenth century.

But Berkeley, already significant before the

Harrisons, was to rise again in the twentieth century. Once more a productive farm, Berkeley today provides a handsome and historic setting for the famous plantation-house complex. It is also a classic example of continuity and new beginnings for anyone familiar with the profile of agricultural experimentation and production at Berkeley Hundred (c. 1619-1622) by John Smythe of Nibley.

Benjamin Harrison (the third of that name) brought Berkeley to the front rank of colonial plantations. The fourth Benjamin Harrison (1700-1744) built the Georgian residence which still overlooks the river from an eminence above a series of terraces. It was his son who, as master of Berkeley through the critical third quarter of the century, achieved distinction as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, sometime member of the Virginia House, and governor of the Commonwealth. William Henry Harrison, son of the signer and born at Berkeley, became the ninth president of the United States.

John Jamieson, father of the present owner, bought the property in 1905, and began the extensive program of repair, restoration, and reconstruction which has revived the land and preserved the house. Except for the upper floors which are used as a residence, the house, now returned to its eighteenth-century appearance and put in excellent condition, is open to visitors. During 1975, the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission was given protective easements for this and two other landmarks from that rural and agricultural world which produced the generation of the Virginia Founding Fathers. These latter, both in Gloucester County, are:



TODDSBURY, Gloucester County

Toddsbury and Long Bridge Ordinary

Captain Thomas Todd inherited Toddsbury, an extensive plantation of the Mobjack Bay area of the Chesapeake region, and lived there until his death in 1725 (N.S.) He and his son served in the traditional capacities of "gentlemen justices" of the Gloucester court and captains of the county militia. Both are buried in the family graveyard situated on the property. The house at Toddsbury was extensively enlarged during the first half of the eighteenth century.

Further additions, including a gambrel roof, were made in 1782, and the entire structure has been restored by the present owner. The paneled woodwork of the interior is outstanding, as are the maple-lined drive, gardens, and lawn. The plantation complex and grounds are surrounded on three sides by water, situated as they are on a point in the classic Mobjack Bay fashion.

Two early Gloucester roadways—the one carrying travelers past Toddsbury from historic Ware Neck and Mathews County and the other from Yorktown via the old ferry (now given way to a bridge)—join just to the southeast of Gloucester Court House. Long Bridge Ordinary, the headquarters of the Gloucester Woman's Club, is situated at the juncture of these two roads.

Architectural analysis of the construction and details of this Virginia vernacular structure testify to its mid-eighteenth-century origin. Though it cannot be definitely established that the building was constructed for use as an ordinary, its location and design support the tradition. The structure is related visually and historically to Gloucester's splendid county-seat complex.



LONG BRIDGE ORDINARY, Gloucester County

The property, surrounded by and for many years a part of, the Edge Hill Farm, continued in commercial use during the nineteenth century. The Gloucester Agricultural Association acquired the building together with fifty acres of farmland in 1913 and held county fairs on the property for the next several years. It was during this period that the basement was rented as a meeting place for the newly formed Gloucester Woman's Club.

The club purchased the building and nearly an acre of land in 1919, an early example of conscious preservation through adaptive reuse of an historic structure. Over the years, the structure has been thoroughly renovated by the Woman's Club, and it continues to serve as the organization's headquarters. Having long since established a viable modern use for the property, the owners have now undertaken the further step of protection by historic easement.

Barret House

Built in 1844 for the tobacconist William Barret, this is one of the finest Greek Revival houses of antebellum Richmond, and, with the Caskie House and Second Presbyterian Church, comprises a remnant of the once-fashionable residential neighborhood of Fifth Street. The Barret House was repaired and restored in 1936-1937 by two well-known Richmond preservationists, Mary Wingfield Scott and Elizabeth Bocock. Miss Scott retains ownership in the property, which has been adapted to office use without destruction of its nineteenth-century character.

The house contains its original woodwork and has fireplaces on each floor, including the basement. The gently spiraled mahogany stairway is a high point of the interior. In the garden behind the house there is a two-story double outbuilding of brick, which has been stuccoed on the garden sides to match the main house. A second outbuilding, the kitchen, was demolished in 1936. The house and property are surrounded by a granite wall and an iron fence with pineapple-topped posts.

Historic Easements 1969 to the Present

Since February 1969, when the Historic Landmarks Commission accepted its first easements—for Old Mansion at Bowling Green in Caroline County—gifts of historic and scenic easements have been recorded for twenty-three individual properties, as well as for a parcel of lots and tracts within or adjacent to the Waterford Historic District in Loudoun County.

These easements were authorized by the General Assembly in the 1966 session, in legislation creating the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, both state agencies. Acceptance of these easements by the Landmarks Commission is authorized by two sections of the Virginia Code. The first is Section 10-158, which authorized "Any public body . . . to acquire, by gift or purchase . . . (2) easements in gross or such other interests in real estate as are designed to maintain the character of such land as open-space land." Section 10-138 (e) authorized the Landmarks Commission to "acquire by purchase, gift or lease and administer registered landmarks, sites and easements and interests therein." Section 10-142 further authorizes the Landmarks Commission to "seek and obtain from (the landowner of the properties certified as a registered landmark) such restrictions upon the use of the property as the Commission finds are reasonable and calculated to perpetuate and preserve the features which lead it to designate such property as a historical landmark."

EASEMENTS FOR WHICH THE VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION IS GRANTEE

Northern Virginia

The Vowell-Snowden-Black House, Alexandria. This townhouse, situated on an oversized lot within the Alexandria Historic District, was for many years the residence of Justice Hugo L. Black and his family.

Waterford, Loudoun County. The owners of twenty-six properties in the village of Waterford have given easements to the Landmarks Commission as part of their nationally recognized effort to protect the visual integrity of this historic community. These properties range from the smallest—though strategically situated—town lot through substantial acreage along the immediate approaches to the village.

Waterford easements include eight for properties owned by the Waterford Foundation and eighteen others involving individual family ownership. Additional acreage is under easement to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Fredericksburg and the Lower Rappahannock Valley

The Chimneys, Fredericksburg. The massive exterior chimneys of this large, two-story Georgian structure make it a familiar city landmark. Fredericksburg retains its historic ambiance in the face of development and growth. The house is presently used as the headquarters of Historic Fredericksburg, Inc., the local historic preservation organization.

Carlton, Stafford County, and Fall Hill, Spotsylvania County. The Georgian plantation houses and grounds of both these properties help to preserve the visual integrity of Fredericksburg and the hills just above the fall line of the Rappahannock.

Brooke's Bank, Essex County. The house and setting of Brooke's Bank presents a classic picture of the eighteenth-century Tidewater plantation.

Corotoman Site, Lancaster County. Long since destroyed by fire in 1729, Robert "King" Carter's residence at Corotoman was as fine as any to be found in the colonies.



THE CHIMNEYS, Fredericksburg



BARRET HOUSE, Richmond



GAY MONT, Caroline County

Gay Mont, Caroline County. This is an extensive property, with reconstructed plantation house and early-nineteenth-century gardens.

Nanzatico, King George County. The colonial residence at Nanzatico, with its two-story engaged portico, stands as an excellent example of architectural formality achieved in frame construction.

Old Mansion, Caroline County. Built in the late seventeenth century, this is one of the best-preserved pre-Georgian houses in Virginia.

Walker Property, King George. This property overlooks the historic colonial port town of Port Royal from the north bank of the Rappahannock.

These properties, contributing towards the preservation of the lower Rappahannock Valley, represent even more 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.



ROCK CASTLE, Goochland County

Richmond and Vicinity

Barret House, Richmond. This fine Greek Revival house has been preserved through adaptation to business use.

Kent-Valentine House, Richmond. Now the headquarters for the Garden Club of Virginia, this house and its grounds recall the grandeur of old Franklin Street.

Rock Castle, Goochland County. This fully paneled farmhouse with extensive acreage lies in the path of Richmond's suburban population development.

Woodside, Henrico County. This Greek Revival villa with extensive grounds is in the highly developed West End of Henrico County.

Berkeley Plantation, Charles City County. The home of the Harrisons during the Golden Age of colonial Virginia, Berkeley is one of the most historic plantations in Virginia.

Westover, Charles City County. The handsomely preserved house at Westover is America's most renowned Georgian building. The home of the Byrd family during the eighteenth century, it lies on the banks of the James River just down from Berkeley.

Lower Tidewater

Lowland Cottage, Gloucester County, and **Toddsbury**, Gloucester County. Both properties lie by open water and evoke the spirit of the old Mobjack Bay area. The original portions of both residences date from the seventeenth century and each has had a complex architectural history.

Gloucester Woman's Club, Gloucester County. Situated at the southeastern approach to the Gloucester County Courthouse Square Historic District, this picturesque mid-eighteenth-century structure (called Long Bridge Ordinary) has long been the headquarters of the Gloucester Woman's Club.

Pleasant Hall, Virginia Beach. This virtually unaltered Georgian dwelling with grounds is a vestige of the old Princess Anne County courthouse town of Kempsville.

Roaring Springs, Gloucester County. This handsomely sited eighteenth-century farmhouse is an archetype of the informal old Virginia homestead that has been remodeled and added to by successive generations.

Southside

Mayfield, Dinwiddie County, and **Bentfield**, Brunswick County. Two examples of Southside plantation houses. The former, dating from the mid-eighteenth century, has especially fine interior paneling. Bentfield was developed in the early nineteenth century.



LOWLAND COTTAGE, Gloucester County



ROARING SPRINGS, Gloucester County

MAYFIELD, Dinwiddie County



Gazette

Executive Director Junius R. Fishburne, Jr. attended the annual meeting of State Historic Preservation Officers held February 9-10 in Alexandria. Staff members Corrine Pellegrin and Robert Swisher attended the workshop held to acquaint state personnel with National Register procedures. National Park Service representatives advised those in attendance that federal funding of state preservation activities stand to be cut up to 50 per cent by the terms of the federal budget bill now before Congress.

The bronze plaque of a National Historic Landmark and the Virginia Historic Landmark Commission's plaque were affixed to old City Hall in Richmond on February 27. Mr. Fishburne represented the Commission at the dedication.

Architectural historian Dell Upton has addressed the Nottoway Historical Society, the Williamsburg chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia, and students of the School of Architecture of the University of Virginia during the winter. In addition, he presented a paper, "The Architecture of the Mott House, Portsmouth, Rhode Island," as part of a symposium: Reconstructing the Colonial Social System, at the annual convention of the Society for Historical Archaeology held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in January.

Architectural historian Calder Loth also participated in the January program of the Society for Historical Archaeology, where he spoke on early brickwork. He has also addressed social and professional groups in Richmond and Harrisonburg on subjects ranging from colonial church architecture (adult class of St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond) to recent preservation activity in Virginia (Richmond Antiquarian Society and Shenandoah Valley Association of Architects). Mr. Loth visited Shirley Plantation on January 30 to survey and record the fire damage at that James River landmark.

The New York Graphic Society announced publication January 13, 1976, of a book by VHLC architectural historian Calder Loth and free-lance architectural designer and author Julius Trousdale Sadler, Jr. *The Only Proper Style: Gothic Architecture in America* includes a fine balance of illuminating text and photographs, plans, and drawings of Gothic buildings and furnishings from across the country.

Another publication that will be of interest to readers of *Notes* is *Preservation and Building Codes*, papers on preservation, architecture, and building codes read at the May 1974 conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This valuable book may be purchased for \$4.00 from the Preservation Bookshop, 740-748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. 20006.

And finally, those who care "To celebrate the American Bicentennial . . . [through] the story of wine making and wine appreciation in early America" will be interested to learn of an exhibition, "THOMAS JEFFERSON AND WINE IN EARLY AMERICA," which includes, among many hundreds of items, three Virginia bottle seals, and other wine-related finds of the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology.

The exhibit is, alas, established at the Wine Museum of San Francisco: The Christian Brothers Collection. Serious enquiries for further information may be addressed to:

Director (or Public Information Director)
The Wine Museum of San Francisco
633 Beach Street
San Francisco, California 94109

Virginia Landmarks Register

The VHLC staff began preparation of nominations to the Virginia Landmarks Register during the fall of 1968. Nominations are reviewed by a committee of the Commission 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 supplemented, on an interim basis, through notices of new listings carried in each issue of *Notes on Virginia*. By the end of December 1975, 611 properties were included in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The most recent additions to the Register include the following:

TIDEWATER & EASTERN SHORE

WILTON, RICHMOND: This impressive fully-paneled, five-bay brick house was built for William Randolph III in eastern Henrico County, a property which later descended to his son Peyton Randolph, Speaker of the House of Burgesses and president of the First Continental Congress. The house, built 1750-1753, was removed to its present location in 1933 under the auspices of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

SANTEE, CAROLINE COUNTY: The handsome house, outbuildings, and verdant park at Santee provide an outstanding and remarkably well preserved example of a formal plantation complex of early-nineteenth-century Tidewater Virginia. The land was patented by John Battaile I (d. 1704) and remained in the ownership of his Fitzhugh and Gordon family descendants until 1943.

FORT NORFOLK, NORFOLK: Fort Norfolk was built by private citizens during the Revolutionary War and transferred to federal ownership in 1795. From 1862 to 1923 the property was controlled by the Navy, although used at times by other branches of the service. The original brick structures are in good condition and form the nucleus for what has been the Norfolk District Headquarters of the Corps of Engineers since 1923.

GLEBE HOUSE OF SOUTHWARK PARISH, SURRY COUNTY: Built for John Cargill, a prominent figure among the Virginia clergy of the early eighteenth century, the Glebe House of

Southwark Parish continued in service through the 1790s. Like most other glebe houses, it was sold and underwent extensive remodeling following the Disestablishment.

INDIAN BANKS, RICHMOND COUNTY: Indian Banks is situated at the confluence of Morattico and Lancaster creeks at the point where they enter the Rappahannock River. The location attracted early settlement; it was apparently the site of an Indian village illustrated on Captain John Smith's map of 1609, an area patented in 1652 by Thomas Glasscock. The early-eighteenth-century brick dwelling house and property remained in the Glasscock family until 1822.

NEWCASTLE TOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, HANOVER COUNTY: Although favorably situated on the Pamunkey River at the convergence of roads from Williamsburg and points north and east, Newcastle—surveyed c. 1738-1739 by John Henry—went into decline shortly after the Revolution.

BLUES ARMORY, RICHMOND: This massive brick structure, with its turreted walls and arcaded base, was headquarters for the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, a socially elite military unit (1789-1968) that saw service in every major conflict from 1812 through 1945. The castellated-style structure, built in 1910, is typical of the large armories erected in many American cities in the decades around the turn of the century; it remains a key architectural element in the heart of downtown Richmond.



INDIAN BANKS, Richmond County



WILTON, Richmond



BLUES ARMORY, Richmond



WILTON, Richmond

PIEDMONT & SOUTHSIDE

MANSFIELD, DINWIDDIE COUNTY: Notable for its fine interiors and unusual form as well as for its location in a neighborhood distinguished by several other meritorious plantation houses, Mansfield is a large frame building constructed in two or more stages during the early and middle decades of the eighteenth century. During the 1830s, Mansfield belonged to Hugh A. Garland, an early biographer of John Randolph of Roanoke.

FARLEY, CULPEPER COUNTY: The prodigious frame house at Farley is one of the least known yet most imposing of Piedmont Virginia's important group of post-colonial mansions. The nine-bay (96 ft. x 46 ft.) house is set in unusually scenic rolling farmlands, with the Blue Ridge Mountains for a backdrop.

SAPPONY CHURCH, DINWIDDIE COUNTY: Sappony Church is significant primarily for its association with Devereux Jarratt, its rector from the 1760s to 1801 and a renowned proponent of the Methodist revival within the Established Church in Virginia. Originally built (1725-1726) for Bristol Parish, Sappony served the parishoners of the newly formed Bath Parish after 1742 and continues to house a small but active congregation within that parish.



BLEMHEIM, Albemarle County



MANSFIELD, Dinwiddie County



FARLEY, Culpeper County



SAPPONY CHURCH, Dinwiddie County



GLEN ARVON, Fluvanna County



BURLINGTON, Dinwiddie County: Interior



MILLER-CLAYTOR HOUSE, Lynchburg

BLEMHEIM, ALBEMARLE COUNTY: John Carter, a son of Robert "King" Carter, patented this portion of the rolling countryside south of Charlottesville. The present plantation complex was built in the late antebellum era by Andrew Stevenson, sometime Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and minister to England. In his later years, Stevenson was rector of the University of Virginia and a noted agriculturist.

GLEN ARVON, FLUVANNA COUNTY: This extensive working plantation, with its fine antebellum house, dates from the Piedmont's great era of agricultural development. The house at Glen Arvon, like its twin and contemporary at nearby Point of Fork, is representative of the transition from the delicate Adam-Federal to the more massive Greek Revival style of architecture.

BURLINGTON, DINWIDDIE COUNTY: An attractive tree-lined drive leads one to this story-and-one-half frame structure, one of several notable eighteenth-century houses which line the Appomattox River just upstream from Petersburg.

MILLER - CLAYTOR HOUSE, LYNCHBURG: This two-story white frame structure dates from the 1790s and has a significant place in the history of preservation in Virginia. Its imminent razing in 1936 led to the formation of the Lynchburg

Historical Society and subsequently to the careful removal and restoration of the building.

MOUNTAIN & VALLEY

A. P. CARTER HOME PLACE, SCOTT COUNTY: Small, unpretentious—"square" or English-style cabin—housing such as this served the needs of the plain folk of the South from colonial times through the nineteenth century. The Homeplace is distinguished for its association with the towering folk musician, A. P. Carter, whose working collection of regional ballads, blues, and inspirational and sentimental music remains a definitive statement of early-twentieth-century mountaineer taste and culture.



A. P. CARTER HOME PLACE, Scott County

BELLE AIRE, ROANOKE COUNTY: This imposing Greek-Revival-style brick house was built in 1849 by Benjamin Deyerle, noted contractor, brick mason, and entrepreneur of the late-antebellum Roanoke Valley. Deyerle lived at Lone Oaks, another of the handsome residences of the vicinity which he built.

MAUCK'S MEETING HOUSE, PAGE COUNTY: Built between 1795 and 1800 by the Mennonite-Baptist congregation of the Mill Creek settlement, Mauck's Meeting House is a well-executed example of plank-log construction, an unusual feature in a building of such large (36 ft. x 29 ft.) proportions.

STEVENS COTTAGE, PAGE COUNTY: Built in 1891 as the office for the newly organized Shenandoah Land and Improvement Company, and sold to Mary and Edna Stevens following the short-lived turn-of-the-century land boom, the structure is now owned by the Page County Heritage Association.



BIG STONE GAP POST OFFICE BUILDING, Wise County

BIG STONE GAP POST OFFICE BUILDING, WISE COUNTY: The United States Post Office and Courthouse at Big Stone Gap is a fine example of the Second Renaissance Revival style of architecture. Its size, architectural excellence, and lavish use of fine materials are all unusual for such a small town.

FLOYD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FLOYD COUNTY: This well-crafted example of the provincial Greek Revival style is an important architectural element in the townscape of Floyd Court House. Probably the oldest remaining public building in the county, the church was built in 1850 and served the Presbyterian congregation until 1974.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, WINCHESTER: The city of Winchester purchased this distinctive log and stone building in 1908 because of its traditional association with two phases of George Washington's early career.

Notes on Landmarks

* Restoration of the A. P. HILL BOYHOOD HOME in downtown Culpeper is in progress. The massive building with its distinctive cupola and rich bracketed cornice has long been a familiar landmark in this Piedmont county seat. The first floor is to be rented out as shops.

* BARBOURSVILLE, the Orange County estate once owned by Governor James Barbour, is being offered for sale. Included in the property are Governor Barbour's house, erected in 1790, as well as the ruins of Barbour's later house, designed by his friend Thomas Jefferson. The Jeffersonian house, which burned in 1884, had architectural similarities to Monticello.

* Word has been received that the owners have demolished all the buildings at BELMEAD in Powhatan County, save for the famous Gothic Revival villa designed by Alexander Jackson Davis. No plans for the ultimate disposition of the property have been made.

* The Albemarle County plantation BLENHEIM, with its Gothic Revival house built for Andrew Stevenson, is for sale. The plantation was established in the eighteenth century by the Carter family.

* The CARLYLE HOUSE, Alexandria, is now a museum and the focal point of an urban garden park. The imposing Georgian residence has been restored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and was reopened to the public during gala ceremonies on January 18.

* The construction of a highrise apartment in the heart of the DANVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT has foundered. The city's Board of Architectural Review decided that the building would be incompatible with the district, composed mainly of large Victorian houses.

* FARLEY, a huge frame house in the formal Palladian manner erected around 1800, is being offered for sale. Located near Brandy Station in Culpeper County, the house is a little-known architectural treasure with virtually all of its original fabric intact.

* Recent archaeological investigation by the VHLC staff at HESSE in Mathews County has revealed that the Georgian house was erected after the Revolution rather than in the early eighteenth century, as previously supposed. The excavation showed that the house is built on the site of an earlier dwelling destroyed by fire.

* The KEELING HOUSE, an early-eighteenth-

century manor house in Virginia Beach, is being offered for sale. The quaint dwelling is noted for its paneled woodwork and for the chevron patterns in the brickwork of its gables.

* MARMION, the famous eighteenth-century home of the Fitzhugh family in King George County, is being advertised for sale. Though the property has never before been placed on the market, the paneling from Marmion's parlor is displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

* Restoration of the interior decoration of ST. ANDREW'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in Roanoke is complete. The interior, a masterpiece of the High Victorian Gothic style, has been returned to its original brilliance with all its gilding renewed and its stenciling repainted.

* A reproduction of the original wallpaper has been installed in the parlor at SHERWOOD FOREST, one phase in the overall restoration in progress at the Charles City County home of President John Tyler. The old French wallpaper, part of Mrs. Tyler's decorations of 1845, had become too deteriorated to retain. The replacement paper was faithfully copied by Birge Company of Buffalo as part of a Bicentennial project. Sherwood Forest is scheduled to be reopened to the public later in the year.

* A fire broke out in the upper portion of a chimney in SHIRLEY, Charles City County, a few days before Christmas. Several of the third-floor rooms were gutted and a portion of the original Carter family library was destroyed. Quick action by both the owner, Mr. Charles Hill Carter, and area fire departments prevented damage from spreading to the lower floors of the famous plantation house. The property remains open to the public while work is in progress on the damaged areas.

* Restoration of Richmond's STEWART-LEE HOUSE is in progress. Work on the Lees' wartime residence is being directed by the Richmond architectural firm of Glave, Newman, and Anderson.

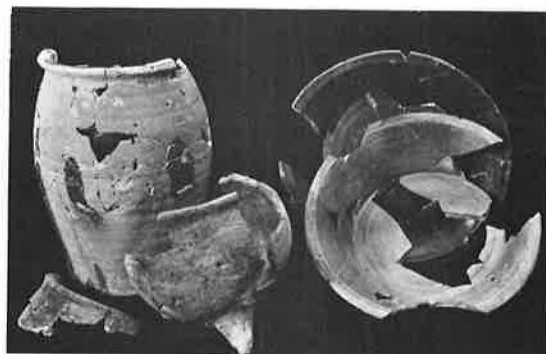
* Robbers broke into the ADAM THOROUGHGOOD HOUSE in Virginia Beach in December and stole numerous antiques. The articles removed from this noted seventeenth-century dwelling were later found abandoned.

* The Richmond City Council has effectively denied permission for erection of a federally sponsored highrise apartment building along the south side of the TWENTY-NINE HUNDRED BLOCK GROVE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT. The district, composed of several distinctive Queen-Anne-style houses near the Virginia Museum, would have had its character much affected by the proposed building. Area residents led the opposition to the project.

Office of Archaeology

On December 19, 1975, trowels and shovels were finally laid to rest at Kingsmill Plantation in James City County, concluding the excavation phase of the VHLC's Busch-sponsored Kingsmill project. Kingsmill Plantation was the last of seven major historic sites investigated over the past three years on the tract near Williamsburg which has been developed by Busch Properties, Inc. Now the major emphasis of the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology staff will be on analysis and interpretation of the appreciable body of data accumulated during the excavations.

According to Senior Archaeologist William Kelso, recent removal of the processing laboratory—artifact washing and conserving—from Kingsmill to quarters in old Rogers Hall at the College of William and Mary will greatly enhance the interpretative phase of this project. It is also the final step in consolidating the non-survey functions of the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology at Williamsburg (see *Notes*, No. 12, Spring 1975).



Analysis of the Kingsmill artifacts begins at the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in Williamsburg. Staff members Dave Hazzard and Merry Abbitt are shown (bottom photo) examining artifacts from the extensive collection.

Different worlds at Kingsmill: Artifacts from a settlement on the seventeenth-century Littletown Plantation site (top photo), and from the expanded eighteenth-century Kingsmill Plantation, Burwell Family period (middle photo). (Archaeology photos by Dave Restuccia)

VRCA staff efforts in both the field and laboratory are being augmented through the volunteer efforts of anthropology students from the college, and the latter are finding their opportunities for study and training enhanced by the proximity of the two institutions.

Many young archaeologists—professional as well as amateur—have benefited from their training at Kingsmill, while the Commonwealth's program and facilities for archaeological research have been strengthened. As VRCA laboratory technicians process the artifacts assembled at Kingsmill (see photographs) the full potential of the project will be realized. Historians of the Chesapeake region will reap the rewards of the intensive study undertaken at this great tract, which—throughout the colonial period and beyond—supported the lives and labors of persons ranging from servant or slave, through yeoman farmer to great planter.

SALVAGE PROJECTS

The purported birth site of James Monroe, fifth president of the United States, is the scene of VRCA salvage excavations under the direction of Keith Egloff. The main objective of the project, sponsored by Westmoreland County, is to identify through artifacts the eighteenth-century occupants of the seventy-acre tract of land which county records indicate was owned by the Monroe family at the time of James Monroe's birth. Egloff and his crew are tracing and dating structural remains located in a previous VRCA survey. The immediate area of those structures will also be explored in an attempt to locate and excavate any related eighteenth-century features.

Salvage excavations have begun, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, along the South Henry Street extension of State Route 199, planned for construction in February. A field crew directed by VRCA archaeologist Carter Hudgins is investigating three colonial sites in the College Landing area. One of the major ports of entry to Williamsburg during the eighteenth century, College Landing (then known as Princess Anne's Port) was established in 1699 by the Assembly of Virginia. From historical documents and maps it is known that both commercial and domestic structures were erected at the landing. It is hoped that the archaeological investigation of the sites at College Landing will salvage valuable data concerning the architecture and related material culture of colonial commercial buildings.

SURVEY PROJECTS

The VHLC is called upon to review proposals for developing historic properties. In a number of instances, developers have been able to incorporate significant historical resources into their master plans so as to enhance a project. Where archaeological sites are in jeopardy, survey, and/or salvage archaeology can often be conducted during site preparation or actual construction. The Commission relies on Virginia State Library staff members for review of projects as they may relate to prehistoric—that is, Indian—sites. VSL archaeologist Wayne Clark takes time from his regular survey duties to assist the Commission in these matters.

Computerization of information on archaeological sites is being developed by Mark Druss of Virginia Commonwealth University in cooperation with the VRCA and the state's university system. Implementation of the program will standardize and facilitate access to archaeological survey gathered statewide.

VRCA archaeologist Dave Hazzard has been coordinating a magnetic survey of the York River at Yorktown with W. J. Andahazy of the D. W. Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development Center at Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Andahazy, working weekends on a volunteer basis, provides specialized skills not otherwise available to the Virginia program. The objective of the survey is to locate ships sunk near Yorktown by Cornwallis in 1781. The ships are a subject of scientific and historic interest to both the Naval Research Center at Annapolis and the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology.

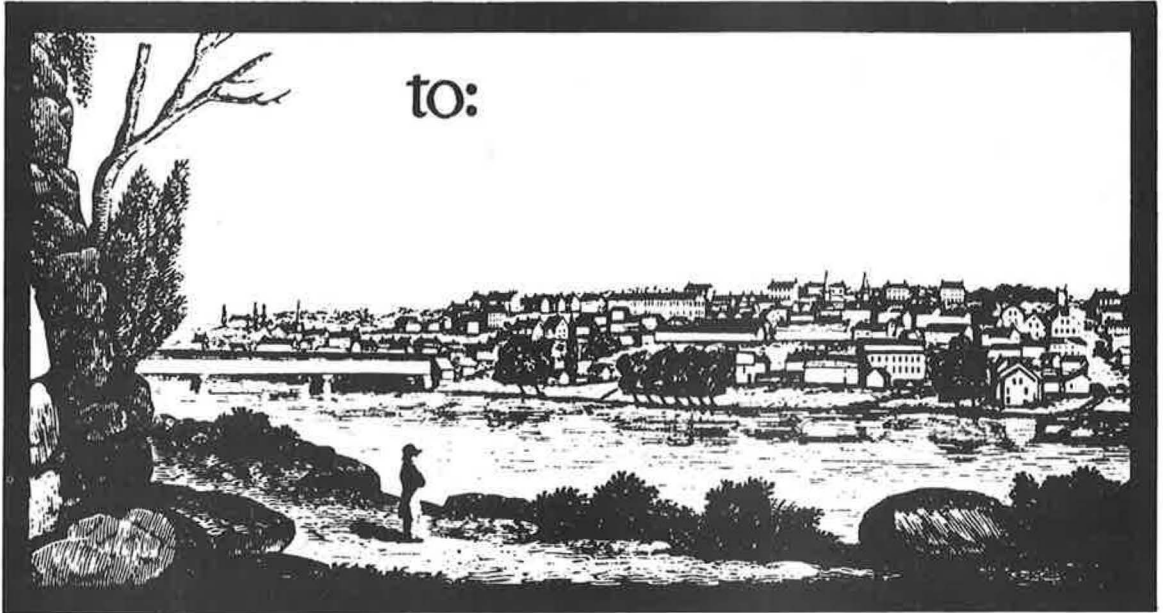
The VRCA is acting in an advisory capacity for a major archaeological survey of Stratford Hall Plantation in Westmoreland County. The initial phase of this project, under the direction of sometime VRCA staff member Fraser Neiman, will be limited to exploration of the 1500-acre tract in an attempt to identify both historic and prehistoric sites. On the basis of this initial survey, a master plan will be developed establishing priorities for the major archaeological research program projected for Stratford by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Senior archaeologist William Kelso addressed the International Council of the Archaeological Institute of America (Washington, D.C., December 29). He also provided the Systems Design class at Old Dominion University with an archaeological perspective for their Fort Wool Project (January 20). Archaeologist Dave Hazzard was the featured speaker for the Colonial Capitol Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities meeting on January 20 and has recently lectured at Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg.

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THIRD CLASS MAIL



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Notes on Virginia

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(All photos by VHLC staff, except where noted)



Kingsmill artifacts must be catalogued and mended before analysis can begin. Here staff member Bly Bogley mends colonial wine bottles (English) taken from the Kingsmill Plantation well. See page 14.