

# Notes on Virginia

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## Contents

- Arts of the Virginia Germans* 2-7  
*Virginia Landmarks Register* 8-22  
*Notes on Landmarks* 23, 32  
*Excavations at Governor's Land* 24  
*Excavations at Robert Carter's Corotoman* 28



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Gravestone, Fort Chiswell Cemetery, Wythe County



Detail of 1825 Elizabeth Spraker Gravestone, Wythe County

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## *Arts of the Virginia Germans*

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The earliest European settlers in western Virginia came to the Shenandoah Valley from the Continent by way of Pennsylvania in the second quarter of the 18th century. These Swiss and Germans settled in the lower Valley between Winchester and Staunton. Later in the 18th century other groups moved farther south into Botetourt County, the Blue Ridge south of Roanoke, and Wythe County. These German-speaking settlers brought with them a distinctive material culture that still flavors the region. In addition to the colorful *fraktur* (decorative documents) and painted furniture for which they are best known, Continental groups brought to Virginia distinctive architectural forms and a characteristic style of grave marker. The surviving examples of these traditions are now most heavily concentrated in Shenandoah, Page and northern Rockingham counties in the Valley, and in Wythe County and the Roanoke area in Southwest Virginia. Over the past two years, the Commission has undertaken to register the better, representative examples of these German relics.

The large European house-barn or *Einhaus* is a familiar image to us. Few such combinations were built in America and none (that we know of) in Virginia, but the Continental farmers of Virginia shared with their European relatives a preference for the complete and varied use of the house not only as a residence but as a working and storage space as well. Theirs were farmhouses in the truest sense, and every cubic foot of these capacious buildings was utilized in the course of the agricultural year.

Samuel Kercheval, the 19th-century historian, left a description of life in a German house that will serve as a good introduction to a more detailed description of these buildings:

There were none of our primitive immigrants more uniform in the form of their buildings than the Germans. —Their dwelling-houses were seldom raised more than a single story in height, with a large cellar beneath; the chimney was in the middle, with a very wide fireplace in one end for the kitchen, in the other end a stove room. Their furniture was of the simplest and plainest kind; and there was always a long pine table fixed in one corner of the stove room, with permanent benches on one side. On the upper floor, garners for holding grain were very common. Their beds were generally filled with straw or chaff, with a fine feather bed for covering in the winter. . . .

Many of the Germans have what they call a drum, through which the stove pipe passes in their upper rooms. It is made of sheet iron, something in the shape of a military drum. It soon fills with heat from the pipe, by which the room becomes agreeably warm in the coldest weather. A piazza [porch] is a very common appendage to a Dutchman's dwelling-house, in which his saddles, bridles, and very frequently his wagon or plow harnesses are hung up. (*History of the Valley of Virginia*, p. 136)



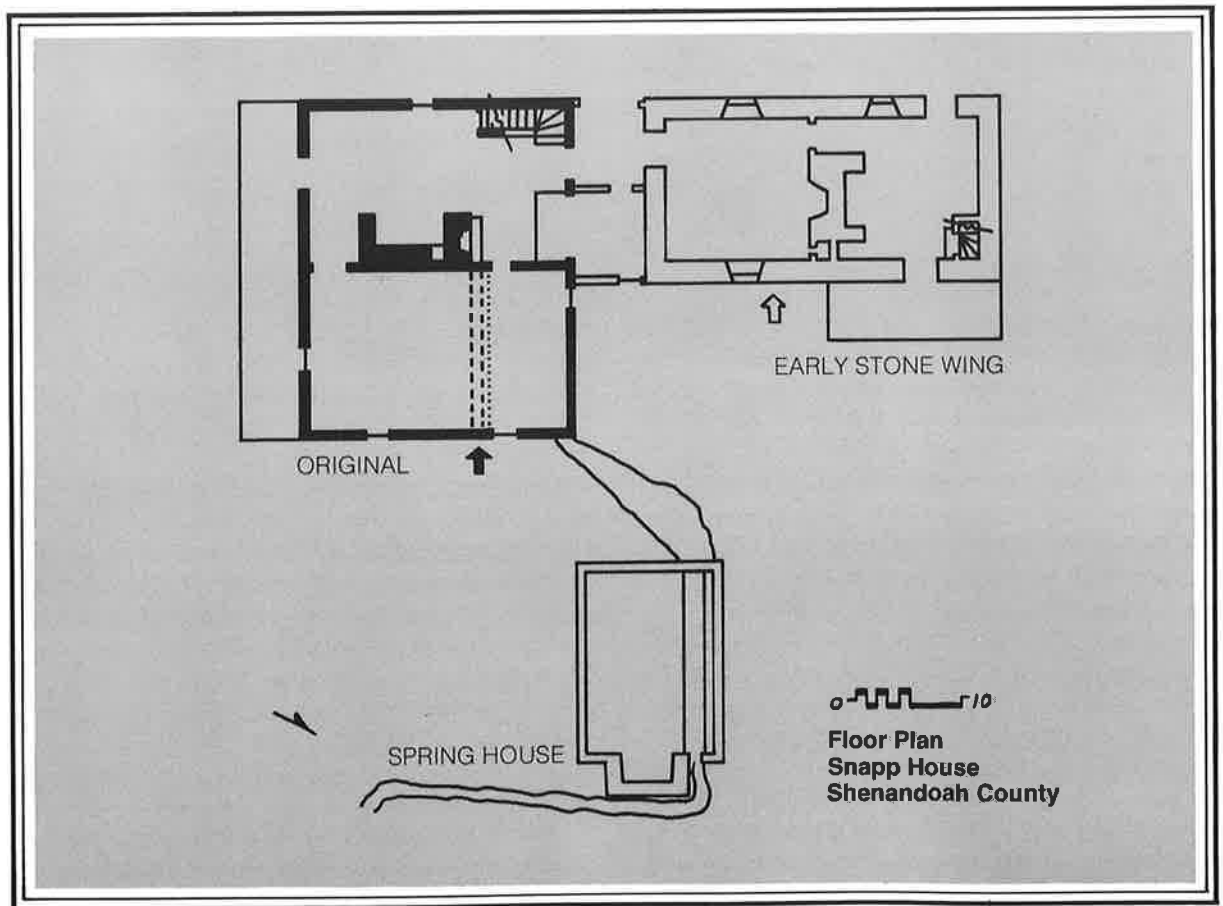
Snapp House, Shenandoah County



Fort Stover, Page County



Peter Paul House, Rockingham County



Top left: The Snapp House in Shenandoah County is a two-story log house (covered with plain weatherboards), with early 19th-century stone wing and the remains of a spring-house/kitchen. Built over a stream and into a bank close to Snapps Run, the siting is over a source of water and allows multilevel entry at grade.

The early Virginia Germans (as they have come to be known) favored the three-room *Flurkuchenhaus* in which the first floor, as Kercheval says, was divided by an internal, off-center chimney into a deep, narrow kitchen (*kuche*) to one side and a nearly square parlor or *stube* on the other. The former was heated by a large fireplace, while the latter was served by an iron stove set into the chimney and fed by coals through a hole in the back of the kitchen fireplace. At the rear of the *stube* was a small chamber (*kammer*) used for sleeping or for storage. Variations on the standard plan involved omitting the *kammer* to create a two-room house, or setting off another small room at the rear of the kitchen to create a four-room one.

The basement, normally accessible only from the outside of the house, was used for working and for storing foodstuffs. One room

was normally insulated or provided with a vault and sometimes a spring for this purpose. These vaults did not aid in defense but, as in the Swiss and German prototypes from which they are derived, helped to maintain a constant temperature and therefore to retard the spoilage of perishables. There could also be an outer workroom in addition to the vaulted or insulated room. Because the cellar space was as important as the living space on the first floor, Continental settlers liked to build their houses into a bank so that both levels could be entered at grade, that is, at ground level, eliminating the need to go up or down stairs to reach the door.

Most of the surviving Germanic houses are two stories tall, but these are among the largest houses built. As Kercheval notes, most Germanic settlers occupied story-and-a-half houses.

The attic of a Continental farmhouse was not wasted space, but was used for the storage of grain. In order to utilize all of the space at times when the attic was particularly full, loose boards were often laid across the collar beams, creating an upper level within the roof. These were removed when the extra space was not needed, but the upper level was often reached by a ladder stair permanently fixed to the



inside wall of one of the gables.

Continental builders used stone, log and frame. With one exception, only the first two are found in surviving Virginia German building.

Toward the end of the 18th century, many Virginia German builders began to be influenced by Renaissance aesthetics and by Anglo-American ideas about house use. The former was evidenced by the new tendency to use symmetrical facades, to move the chimneys to the ends (often retaining the three-room plan, however), and sometimes to introduce central passages. The latter had the effect of reducing the non-residential uses of the house; storage and work spaces were increasingly transferred to outbuildings. The roof was no longer the granary, while vaulted cellars were abandoned in favor of spring-houses and meathouses.

Ultimately, these distinctive house types ceased to be used, but Germanic settlers left their mark on the area in the 19th-century aesthetics preference for flamboyantly molded, brightly colored decoration, the use of bank siting, log construction, and bank barns. The latter are barns built, like Germanic houses, into a hillside, allowing entry at grade to an upper storage area and a lower

stock level. Often the upper story projected over the lower in an overhang or forebay. This barn type was probably a Pennsylvania-made synthesis of a kind of barn used in Switzerland and bank barn forms brought by the English from the northwest part of their country.

Less conspicuous than the Rhenish houses but of equal interest and equally characteristic of Continental life are the Germanic grave-stones found throughout western Virginia. The most distinctive of these are found in a group of Lutheran cemeteries stretching from Botetourt to Tazewell counties, but concentrated around Wytheville. Carved out of a fine-grained native sandstone, these memorials are decorated with such familiar Germanic motifs as hearts, pinwheels, sunflowers, lilies, and tulips. The similarity of these decorations to those employed on the decorated furniture and on the *fraktur*, or (illuminated) documents, produced by the same groups is immediately apparent. Unlike English carvers, the Germans decorated both faces of their stones and often the edges as well. In fact, the principal design was normally reserved for the reverse, with a plainer finial and an enframed inscription employed on the obverse. Most of the markers were made in the first half of the 19th century, when Germans



The Christian-Brown Barn, Wythe County (demolished 1978). Note projecting upper story (forebay).



Interior detail of Christian-Brown Barn showing plate to sill bracing and horizontal rail.



Daniel Etter gravestone, 1805, St. John's Lutheran Church, Wythe County

had begun to be integrated into the broader Anglo-American society, and the inscriptions are, therefore, usually written in the English language. An exception is the work of Laurence Krone. Krone, the only German carver from Southwest Virginia known by name, was also by far the most skilled. His masterfully carved markers at St. John's Lutheran Church near Wytheville are lettered in English, German and, occasionally, in Latin.

Cultural influence worked both ways. Because Krone was clearly the outstanding stoneworker of his time and place, he was employed by non-German families as well. He made an elaborate coffin-shaped marker, known as the Old Tombstone, for the Denton family of Roanoke County, and in the late 1830s the McGavocks of Wythe County employed him to make markers for the graves of their parents, grandparents and several other relatives. These markers, in the McGavock cemetery at Fort Chiswell, are the only known group of Germanic stones not placed in a churchyard.

Farther north, in Augusta and Rockingham County, are found stones which conform in their shapes, material, single-side decoration, and style of lettering to the popular funerary modes of mid-19th-century American. Yet

these retain German decorative elements, particularly in their fondness for such forms as eight-pointed stars, twisted pilasters and pin-wheels.

As the 19th century wore on, the Continental groups who maintained a conspicuous, or, some would say alarming, separation from the English in 18th-century Virginia were absorbed into the broader social and economic structure of western Virginia. As their modes of farming and styles of living became more like their neighbors, so did their material possessions. Yet, like many other ethnic groups in America, the descendants of the first German and Swiss settlers never completely lost their sense of a distinct identity, and they maintained it in such secondary contexts as furniture making, religious affiliation, the occasional use of the German language in private conversations, the aesthetic preferences for brightly colored decoration and foodways. Their gravestones are one manifestation of this tendency. While German houses were not built much after 1800, the Germans continued to use their decorative designs well into the 19th century.

—By Dell Upton,  
Architectural Historian



Gravestone (no date), Sharon Lutheran Church Cemetery, Bland County



Emiline Jemima Groseclose gravestone, 1840, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery, Wythe County



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# VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

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The VHLC is pleased to note the following additions made to the Virginia Landmarks Register during the winter and early spring. The Register is the Commonwealth's official schedule of properties worthy of preservation and currently lists over 820 places. Included are buildings, structures, sites, and districts of statewide or national historical, architectural, or archaeological significance.

A cloth-bound copy of the *Virginia Landmarks Register* is available for \$8.95 (plus Virginia sales tax) from the printer, the Dietz Press, 109 E. Cary Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. This volume contains brief statements on each of approximately six hundred properties included in the Register and is profusely illustrated.



Brompton, Fredericksburg

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# Tidewater

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**BROMPTON, FREDERICKSBURG:** Brompton, so named by Fredericksburg businessman John Lawrence Marye, who purchased the property in 1824, figured prominently in the two Battles of Fredericksburg. The structure was much enlarged and remodeled into an imposing Roman Revival-style dwelling during Marye's long tenure. The steep hill known as Marye's Heights, which the house dominates, was the scene of fierce combat during the battles of 1862 and 1863. Now the official residence of the President of Mary Washington College, Brompton is distinguished by its graceful portico and fine brickwork.

**CHRIST AND ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, NORFOLK:** Designed by the Philadelphia firm of Watson and Huckle and erected 1909-10, Christ and St. Luke's is one of the state's purest expressions of the Late Gothic Revival. Fostered by the Boston architect, Ralph Adams Cram, the style was inspired by the richly ornamented English buildings of the latter Middle Ages, and is known for the faithfulness of its interpretation of Gothic forms. One of the church's most remarkable features is its beautifully carved reredos. Christ and St. Luke's parish is one of the oldest in the

state, being the direct descendant of the ancient Elizabeth River Parish.

**FOURTH BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND:** Fourth Baptist is significant both as an expression of Richmond's conservative architectural taste during the late 19th century and as a symbol of the social, religious, and economic conditions of blacks following emancipation. Erected in 1884 on the northern edge of the Church Hill neighborhood, the structure boasts a stylish Victorian interior behind a plain but dignified Greek Revival facade reminiscent of Richmond's Old First Baptist Church by Thomas U. Walter. The congregation had its origins in a regular assembly for prayer by slaves in their quarters. It transferred to the basement of Leigh Street Baptist Church in 1861, and in 1865, led by the Reverend Scott Gwathmey, took full control of the church organization and soon built its own church.

**JOSEPH JORDAN HOUSE, ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY:** This small brick-and-frame farmhouse with distinctive architectural detailing, is a well-preserved example of a moderate-sized plantation house of the late 18th century in



Christ and St. Luke's Church, Norfolk



Fourth Baptist Church, Richmond



Joseph Jordan House, Isle of Wight County

southeastern Virginia. It belongs to an important group of architecturally related houses in the Blackwater River area and represents the first flush of prosperity for the small planters who settled there. The later additions on the house, the outbuildings, and the 150-acre tract itself complete the picture of a typical 19th-century farmstead of the region. The property has been known variously as Jordan's or Boykin's Quarter and the Hattie Barlow Moody Farm.

**WILLIAM H. TRUSTY HOUSE, HAMPTON:** William H. Trusty, black entrepreneur, property owner, and councilman from the town of Phoebus' fifth ward, erected his stylish residence in 1897 in one of the eclectic Victorian styles favored by successful business and community leaders. It remains a symbol of that generation of blacks directly inspired by Booker T. Washington and his doctrine of self-help.



William H. Trusty House, Hampton

**RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE COMPLEX, HANOVER COUNTY:** Chartered in 1830, this is the oldest Methodist-related college in the United States still in operation. Situated on the southwest corner of the present 85-acre campus in Ashland, Washington-Franklin Hall, Pace Lecture Hall, and Duncan Memorial Chapel were the first brick buildings constructed after the institution's removal from Mecklenburg County to Ashland in 1868. Erected in the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles, the buildings were designed by B. F. Price of Alexandria and William W. West of Richmond. Together they form a nostalgic image of a small, late-Victorian collegiate complex.



Washington-Franklin Hall, Randolph-Macon College



Pace Hall, Randolph-Macon College



Interior view, St. Andrew's Church, Richmond

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH COMPLEX, RICHMOND:** The St. Andrew's Episcopal Church complex stands as an architectural monument to the social, educational, and religious history of Richmond's Oregon Hill community, and to the philanthropy and social conscience of Miss Grace Arents. Built between 1900 and 1908, the complex contains a church and school designed by A. H. Ellwood of Elkhart, Indiana, and a parish hall, library, and faculty residence by Noland and Baskerville of Richmond. The richly embellished church is a distinguished example of the High Victorian Gothic mode.

**CHICKAHOMINY SHIPYARD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, JAMES CITY COUNTY:** Ships were constructed here for the Virginia Navy between 1777 and 1781. The site consists of nautical and dry land components and represents the only known, essentially intact archaeological site of its type in the Commonwealth. Shipbuilding activities at the site are well documented.



St. Andrew's Church Complex, Richmond

**FOUR SQUARE, ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY:** Four Square is a large, unusually complete plantation complex consisting of the residence, eight domestic outbuildings, and a variety of barns and other farm buildings. The two-story, L-shaped frame house was built by the Woodley family in 1807 on land they had owned since the late 17th century. The house ranks among the largest frame houses of the era surviving in southeast Virginia.

**ELM GROVE, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY:** Elm Grove is an important vernacular domestic complex, significant as an artifact of two hundred years of rural life in Southampton County. Begun as a two-room dwelling for the William family in the late 18th century and enlarged by subsequent owners, the two-story, six-bay frame resident has notable out buildings, particularly the rare multi-pit log smokehouse.

**EVERGREEN, PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY:** Evergreen is noted for its associations with the Ruffin family, who established themselves there in the mid-18th century. The present Georgian-style dwelling was probably erected in 1807-1808 by George Ruffin. It was owned during the mid-19th century by his son-in-law, Harrison Cocke, sometime Confederate naval captain in command of the James River Naval Defenses. The house has

been appraised as one of the finest quality plantation homes along the south side of the James River since the 1820s.

**BROWN'S FERRY, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY:** Brown's Ferry is representative of the finest examples of Federal architecture in Southampton County. The house was constructed before 1818 and is known as the birthplace of William Mahone (1826-1895) politician, railroad executive, and colorful Confederate General, best remembered as the hero of the Battle of the Crater. Deeper than it is wide, the generously proportioned dwelling has carefully detailed Federal woodwork with original graining, and a floor plan unusual for its separate stair chamber.

**SEATACK LIFE SAVING STATION, VIRGINIA BEACH:** Stations of the United States Lifesaving Service, a predecessor of the Coast Guard, were constructed to rescue victims of shipwrecks and other maritime disasters. The Virginia Beach station has been a familiar landmark at Ocean Front and 24th Street since it was erected in 1903. Re-equipped and renovated in 1933 for another generation of service, it was abandoned in 1969. The City of Virginia Beach now owns the structure which is to be moved a short distance and adapted for use as a visitor and information center.



Four Square, Isle of Wight County



Elm Grove, Southampton County



Seatack Station, Virginia Beach



Evergreen, Prince George County

# Northern Virginia

**HERNDON DEPOT, FAIRFAX COUNTY:** This small, one-story, board-and-batten structure is an excellent example of the simple railroad station which served as both focal point and point of departure for the small rural communities of the last century. Located 21 miles from Washington, Herndon became both an early commuter stop and an important location for shipment of dairy products during the latter-19th century.

**LEE-FENDALL HOUSE, ALEXANDRIA:** The Lee-Fendall House is a three-bay, two-story town house erected in 1785 and remodeled in the Greek Revival style in 1850-52. Built as the residence of Philip Richard and Elizabeth Lee Fendall, it is the earliest of several neighboring houses with Lee family connections in Old Town Alexandria. The labor leader John L. Lewis made his home there from 1937 until his death in 1969, and it is now operated as an historic house museum by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation.

**FAIRFAX ARMS, FAIRFAX COUNTY:** This 1½-story residence is one of two mid-18th-century buildings surviving from Colchester, a Colonial port town that declined, but did not disappear, following the Revolution. Handsome stone chimneys, unusual plan, and surviving interior decoration, including an early 19th-century wall cupboard, are among the most striking features of this well-preserved local landmark. Fairfax Arms was at one time a tavern.

**HUME SCHOOL, ARLINGTON:** This imaginative Queen Anne-style building was designed by the Washington architect B. Stanley Simmons and built in 1891. It is a notable example of the community pride shown in the erection of municipal buildings during the last decades of the 19th century, specifically in the design of public schools, this being also an era of growth and reform in public schooling.



Herndon Depot, Fairfax County



Fairfax Arms, Fairfax County



Lee-Fendall House, Alexandria



Hume School, Arlington

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# Piedmont

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**DIAMOND HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, LYNCHBURG:** Diamond Hill, once one of Lynchburg's most fashionable residential neighborhoods, enjoyed its greatest prosperity at the turn of the century. This period was marked by construction of numerous residences ranging from speculative builder rental units to stately architect-designed houses, the latter usually in either Georgian or Colonial Revival styles. The family homes of prominent businessmen, civic, and political leaders were clustered in this area along Washington, Clay, Pearl, and Madison Streets.

**HAYES HALL, LYNCHBURG:** This imposing 3½-story, mansard roof, brick structure was the first building constructed for what is now the Virginia College and Virginia Seminary. It was later renamed Hayes Memorial Hall in honor of the institution's second president, Gregory Willis Hayes. The school, authorized in 1886 by the Virginia Baptist Convention, participated actively in the "Self Help" educational movement inspired by Booker T. Washington.

**MT. SALEM BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY:** Mt. Salem Baptist Church was organized in 1824, and the present meeting house begun in March 1850. The congregation flourished for many years, and remained active until World War II. The meeting house has recently been restored and placed back in monthly service. The architecturally conservative structure is a good representative of a rural Virginia stone church of the mid-19th century.

**THE RESIDENCE, MADISON COUNTY:** This 1½-story, wood-frame Federal house was built in 1793 after suggestions by Thomas Jefferson, and extensively enlarged and altered to accommodate the needs of later owners. Erected for William Madison, brother of President James Madison, it passed from the Madison to the Walker family in 1870. Remodeled by the Robert Walkers in 1884, who were founders of Woodberry Forest School, the Residence was for many years the home of the headmaster, and currently serves as the school's guest house.



Clay Street, Diamond Hill Historic District, Lynchburg

**MAIN HALL, RANDOLPH-MACON WOMAN'S COLLEGE, LYNCHBURG:** Randolph-Macon Woman's College was founded in 1891 under the original Randolph-Macon College Charter of 1830 as amended. It was the first college for women admitted to membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Main Hall, erected over a twenty-year period from 1891-1911, remains the principal architectural element in a complex that serves as the academic and residential heart of the campus. Designed by the Washington architect William F. Poindexter, the center-hall-plan, brick edifice is an important example of the Queen Anne style as adapted to collegiate architecture.



Main Hall, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg



Main Hall, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg



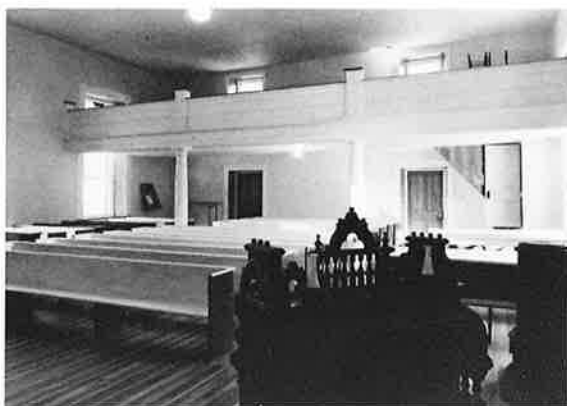
Hayes Hall, Virginia College, Lynchburg



The Residence, Madison County



Mt. Salem Baptist Meeting House, Rappahannock County



Interior, Mt. Salem Baptist Meeting House



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# Southside

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**ELM HILL, MECKLENBURG COUNTY:** The large frame house at Elm Hill was built ca. 1800 on a hilltop overlooking the Roanoke River (now the upstream portion of Lake Gaston with the John H. Kerr Dam as a backdrop). The T-shaped, two-story house has one-bay flanking wings. Preserved inside is most of the fine Federal woodwork. In addition to its architectural interest, Elm Hill is significant for its connection with the family of Sir Peyton Skipwith of Prestwoud. The house was built for Sir Peyton's son, Peyton, Jr., and remained in the family for several generations.

**POPLAR LAWN HISTORIC DISTRICT, PETERSBURG:** The Poplar Lawn Historic District, located south of downtown Petersburg, is composed primarily of mid- to late 19th-century, single family residences grouped about a two-block public green. Sometimes called "Central Park", the green itself was the focal point for military exercises and social gatherings in early Petersburg.

**ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK COUNTY:** The Saul Building, Fine Arts Building

(originally, the residence of the school principal), and the Gothic style Memorial Chapel form the early core of St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School. Built over a twenty-year period from 1883-1904, the buildings stand as a symbol of the institution's growth from a one-room parochial school to a four-year, liberal arts college. Established in Lawrenceville in 1883 by an Episcopalian deacon, the Reverend James Solomon Russell, the school was one of several in the state organized in the late 19th century to serve the educational and spiritual needs of Virginia's black citizens.

**MOSS TOBACCO FACTORY, MECKLENBURG COUNTY:** Tobacco manufacturing was a complex and labor-intensive industry, and the larger tobacco factories were similar in design to the textile buildings of industrial New England. The 3½-story Moss Tobacco Factory, erected in two stages during the 1850s housed a complete manufacturing operation until 1862. A decade later, Clarksville having lost the processing business to Richmond and Petersburg, the building was returned to service as a warehouse for the sale and exchange of tobacco. In time the Southside market became concentrated in Danville. The



Elm Hill, Mecklenburg County



Poplar Lawn Historic District, Petersburg



Fine Arts Building, St. Paul's College, Brunswick County

building, a rare survival, stands vacant—its future uncertain.

**FALKLAND, PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY:** Falkland, a large, framed plantation house was built in 1815 by the Watkins family, important figures in the early history of Prince Edward County and of Hampden-Sydney College. The two-story, four-bay, hall-parlor dwelling is a striking and little altered example of a vernacular house type found throughout the upper South from the Virginia Piedmont westward. Falkland is unusually large for the type, being flanked by one-story, one-bay wings of unequal lengths.



Moss Tobacco Factory, Mecklenburg County



Falkland, Prince Edward County

**FLAT ROCK, LUNENBURG COUNTY:** Built in the late 18th century, the residence at Flat Rock is unusually early for its locality. It began as a two-story, hall-parlor house and was enlarged twice, so that it now incorporates several popular decorative styles and a succession of plan types traditional in the area. The sets of hexagonal chimney stacks atop each chimney are a distinctive feature.

**FOLLY CASTLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, PETERSBURG:** This one-block residential neighborhood containing fourteen late 18th- and 19th-century houses and one 19th-century church, was once one of Petersburg's leading residential neighborhoods. Folly Castle, erected in 1763 for Peter Jones, V, whose progenitor and namesake was the alleged source for the name Petersburg, is the best known individual structure within the district. The Rambout-Donnan and McIlwaine-Friend Houses, Jonathan Smith residence and school house, and the Second Presbyterian Church are also architecturally and historically notable structures.



Second Presbyterian Church, Folly Castle Historic District, Petersburg



Folly Castle, Petersburg



Flat Rock, Lunenburg County

# Mountain & Valley

**KABLE HOUSE, STAUNTON:** One of Staunton's more elaborate Italianate structures, the Kable House was built in 1873-74 and is now owned by Mary Baldwin College. Captain William H. Kable bought the property when he relocated his Charlestown Male Academy to Staunton in 1884. Captain Kable's school achieved national recognition as the Staunton Military Academy (so named in 1886) until its closing in 1976.



Kable House, Staunton

**C. W. MILLER HOUSE, STAUNTON:** Designed by local architect T. J. Collins to serve as a residence for the C. W. Miller family, the buff-brick and rough-cut stone structure is in the Chateausque style. The structure remained in the Miller family for a generation following its construction in 1899-1900, and has been associated with the music department at Mary Baldwin College since the 1930s.



C. W. Miller House, Staunton



Interior, C. W. Miller House, Staunton

**HANNAH MILLER HOUSE, AUGUSTA COUNTY:** The Hannah Miller House, erected in 1814, is the only known Virginia example of a Continental bank house, a form employed to take advantage of hilly sites. It was introduced to America by settlers of German extraction. The house stands on part of the tract owned by Henry Miller, founder of the locally renowned Mossy Creek Iron Furnace. As it was built for Miller's widow Hannah, it is an early example of a *Stöckli*, a small house set aside for retired parents. This practice, like the bank house form, although common in Pennsylvania, was rare in Virginia.

**FORT EGYPT, PAGE COUNTY:** This familiar and well-loved local landmark is one of a group of a dozen 18th-century, Germanic farmhouses situated along the banks of the Shenandoah River in Page County. Fort Egypt is a full-dovetailed log structure which, like most Continental-type farmhouses, was built as a voluminous building whose interior spaces were fully utilized throughout the agricultural year for work, storage, and family life.

**HILLTOP, STAUNTON:** The most prominent feature of this fine Federal building is a huge two-story portico with massive Tuscan columns. It was one of Staunton's most elegant residences during the long half-century following its construction and prior to its purchase in 1872 by the founders of the Augusta Female Seminary (now Mary Baldwin College). Circuit Judge Lucas P. Thompson resided at Hilltop from 1842 until his death in 1866. A large brick wing, designed by local architects T. J. Collins & Son, was added to the rear of the structure in 1904.

**JOHN BEAVER HOUSE, PAGE COUNTY:** A rare decorative design in the brickwork distinguishes this picturesque Valley farmhouse. Built 1825-26 by John Beaver, the two-story dwelling combines architectural elements from both Continental and Anglo-Saxon vernacular building traditions. The brickwork, double entry, and four-bay facade are typical Germanic features. The hall-parlor plan and Federal-style woodwork are more standard Virginia features. John Beaver's wife, Nancy Strickler, was a descendant of Abraham Strickler, a prominent original settler of the Valley.



Hannah Miller House, Augusta County



Hilltop, Staunton



Fort Egypt, Page County



John Beever House, Page County

**NATIONAL VALLEY BANK, STAUNTON:** Confederate General John Echols founded the National Valley Bank in November 1865. The bank grew as the economy of Staunton waxed over the next three decades. The present building, one of western Virginia's finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture, was built in 1903, designed by T. J. Collins & Son after the ancient Roman Arch of Titus.

**THE OAKS, STAUNTON:** From 1868 until his death in 1899, the Oaks was the home of Major Jedidiah Hotchkiss, the noted Confederate cartographer and aide to General T. J. Jackson. After

several alterations, most notably the expansion begun in 1888, the house had become a true wonder of Victoriana, both inside and out. The Oaks remained in the Hotchkiss family until the 1940s.

**ROSE TERRACE, STAUNTON:** Built ca. 1875 as a private residence for Holmes Erwin, the building's elaborate brickwork and chimneys, and overall workmanship are among the finest in Staunton. Rose Terrace, an L-shaped, 2½-story brick structure in the Italianate style, was purchased by Mary Baldwin Seminary (now College) in 1919. It has served as the college president's home and, more recently, as a dormitory.



National Valley Bank, Staunton



The Oaks, Staunton



Rose Terrace, Staunton

**McGAVOCK FAMILY CEMETERY, WYTHE COUNTY:** Set on a hill above the family mansion at Fort Chiswell, the McGavock Family Cemetery is noted for its rich collection of 19th-century funerary art, including an important group of Germanic stones, the only ones of their type located in a family burying ground. The stones are attributed to Laurence Krone, the best of the Germanic carvers. The cemetery gains interest also from its association with one of Southwest Virginia's most prominent pioneer families.

**STRASBURG STONE AND EARTHENWARE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, SHENANDOAH COUNTY:** This large, two-story, brick industrial structure was built in 1891 as a pottery factory. Adapted for use as a railroad depot in 1913, it now houses the Strasburg Museum. The Museum, often referred to as the Steam Pottery, is a landmark to several facets of the area's industrial history including Strasburg's status as a railroad junction, the Shenandoah Valley's tradition of ceramics manufacturing, and the short-lived economic boom of the 1890s in western Virginia.

**WINCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT:** Settled during the mid-18th century as a small farming community, Winchester gained regional prominence as the county seat of Frederick County and as a trade and mercantile center at the junction of several turnpikes. Architecturally, Winchester holds a wide variety of styles representative of all periods of the city's growth and of the varied cultural and geographic backgrounds of persons who settled here. Winchester's strategic location in the Valley contributed to the community's figuring in the French and Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil Wars. From the 1870s to the 1920s Winchester served as the commercial and industrial center of the Valley with glove manufacturing the leading industry. During the present century, the city has become the center of the Virginia apple industry. The district is approximately 45 city blocks in size and envelops both commercial and residential properties.



McGavock Family Cemetery, Wythe County



Strasburg Stone and Earthenware Manufacturing Company, Strasburg, Shenandoah County



203-213 S. Cameron St., Winchester Historic District

# Notes on Landmarks

**Nanzatico**, King George County: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis have given Nanzatico, a Rappahannock River estate containing one of Virginia's most formal 18th-century wooden Georgian houses to the Virginia Historical Society. Protected by a preservation easement held by the VHLC, the property is being offered for sale with the proceeds to be used for increasing the society's endowment.



Nanzatico, King George County

**Old City Hall**, Richmond: The City of Richmond has made no final decision on how to dispose of Old City Hall, the famous Victorian Gothic building overlooking Capitol Square. The Richmond Chamber of Commerce has formed an ad hoc committee consisting of state and local officials as well as representatives of business, preservation, and civic groups to make recommendations on whether to sell the property to the state for unrestricted use, or to sell it to private developers for adaptive reuse.

**Orkney Springs**, Shenandoah County: This late-Victorian spa complex has recently been purchased by the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. The Diocese is planning a long-term restoration of the buildings for use as a conference center and retreat.

**Redlands**, Albemarle County: This imposing Georgian plantation house, seat of Carter family, has been selected by the British Broadcasting Corporation as the filming location for the Virginia scenes of a new series on the life of Lady Astor, the first woman member of Parliament.

(continued on page 32)



Old City Hall, Richmond



Orkney Springs, Shenandoah County



Redlands, Albemarle County





## *Excavations At Governor's Land* *"A Subberb of James Citty"*

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Hundreds of thousands of artifacts, ranging from a rare three-bowl pipe to ordinary grubbing hoes, are providing information and insights about the earliest 17th century Virginia colonists as a result of three years of excavation at Governor's Land near Jamestown.

The Governor's Land was created in 1618 by Governor George Yeardley on instructions from the Virginia Company of London, the group of stockholders whose charter to settle Virginia was granted in 1606 by King James I. Yeardley's orders called for setting aside 3,000 acres of land in the "best and most convenient place of the territory of Jamestown in Virginia and next adjoining to the said town to be the seat and land of the Governor of Virginia." The land was to be tilled by seven-year tenants who would receive half the profits of their labor, the other half going to the Governor and the Company.

When the Virginia Company charter was revoked in 1624 for financial mismanagement the system of tenancy in common was abandoned. Afterwards, parcels of the land were leased to individuals by the Governor and his successors, an arrangement that continued into the second half of the 18th century.

Interest in this area lying just north of the first permanent English settlement in the New World led to its establishment as the Governor's Land Archaeological District in 1972. Subsequently, it was included in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Two thousand acres of

Governor's Land were surveyed in 1975 with National Park Service funds. Thirty five archaeological sites were identified and evaluated for research potential, and four of them selected for immediate investigation. In March 1976 the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, initiated archaeological work that will continue through 1981.

The earliest site located on the 1975 survey, and the first area to be excavated in 1976, was the Maine, a small, linear settlement of insubstantial dwellings occupied ca. 1620-1630. Constructed of drive posts or "puncheons" which were probably covered with boards, these 22' x 24' and 15' x 18' houses were warmed by mud and stick chimneys. In addition to the slightness of architectural construction, evidence of unusual burial practices and a diet dependent on local fish and game indicate the Maine was a frontier settlement. Five interments found on the periphery of the site contained skeletons randomly disposed in shallow graves and in varied attitudes, both with and without coffins, all of which portrays an abandonment of normative behaviour toward the disposal of the dead.

Dietary remains revealed the settlers ate a wide range of wild animals as well as fish, shellfish and domesticated animals. Such archaeological evidence supports the historical theory that during the 1620's, when life centered on making a profit from "the weed," Virginia settlers lived in rough "boom towns"

much like those of the later Gold Rush days in the American West.

Further substantiation of quick wealth was found in the cosmopolitan ceramic assemblage from the Maine. Some of the unearthed vessels, such as two Chinese porcelain wine cups, were undoubtedly obtained through illegal trade with Dutch merchantmen, who profited from Virginia tobacco by sailing up the James to trade directly with the settlers. Additional artifacts at the site included an assemblage of body armor, a cabasset helmet and several edged weapons, armaments which may have been part of a cargo of outmoded military gear sent to the colonists from the Tower of London following the Indian Massacre of 1622.

A very different material culture was found at nearby Pasbehay Tenement, occupied just

Left: English delftware plate decorated in blue with caricatures of William and Mary, dual monarchs from 1689 to 1694. Excavated from a well backfilled during the 1690's on the Drummond site.

slightly later, ca. 1635-1650. The second site excavated in 1976, Pasbehay Tenement was a more carefully constructed 16' x 20' building framed around hole-set posts, which allowed uniform building dimensions rather than the uneven sizes and odd configurations of the Maine structures. In contrast to the European ceramics and smoking pipes found at the Maine, the Pasbehay artifacts were made locally, a fact which, like the more permanent architecture, testifies to a relatively settled way of life.

The Maine and Pasbehay sites mirror the fluctuating tobacco economy during their respective periods of occupation. When the Virginia tobacco economy was booming between 1617 and 1630 quick fortunes were being made, but by 1630 overproduction had caused falling prices and depression, with a corresponding change in material culture from good quality ceramics of diverse European origins to utilitarian ceramics of predominantly local manufacture.

View of Pasbehay Tenement from the east, James River in background.

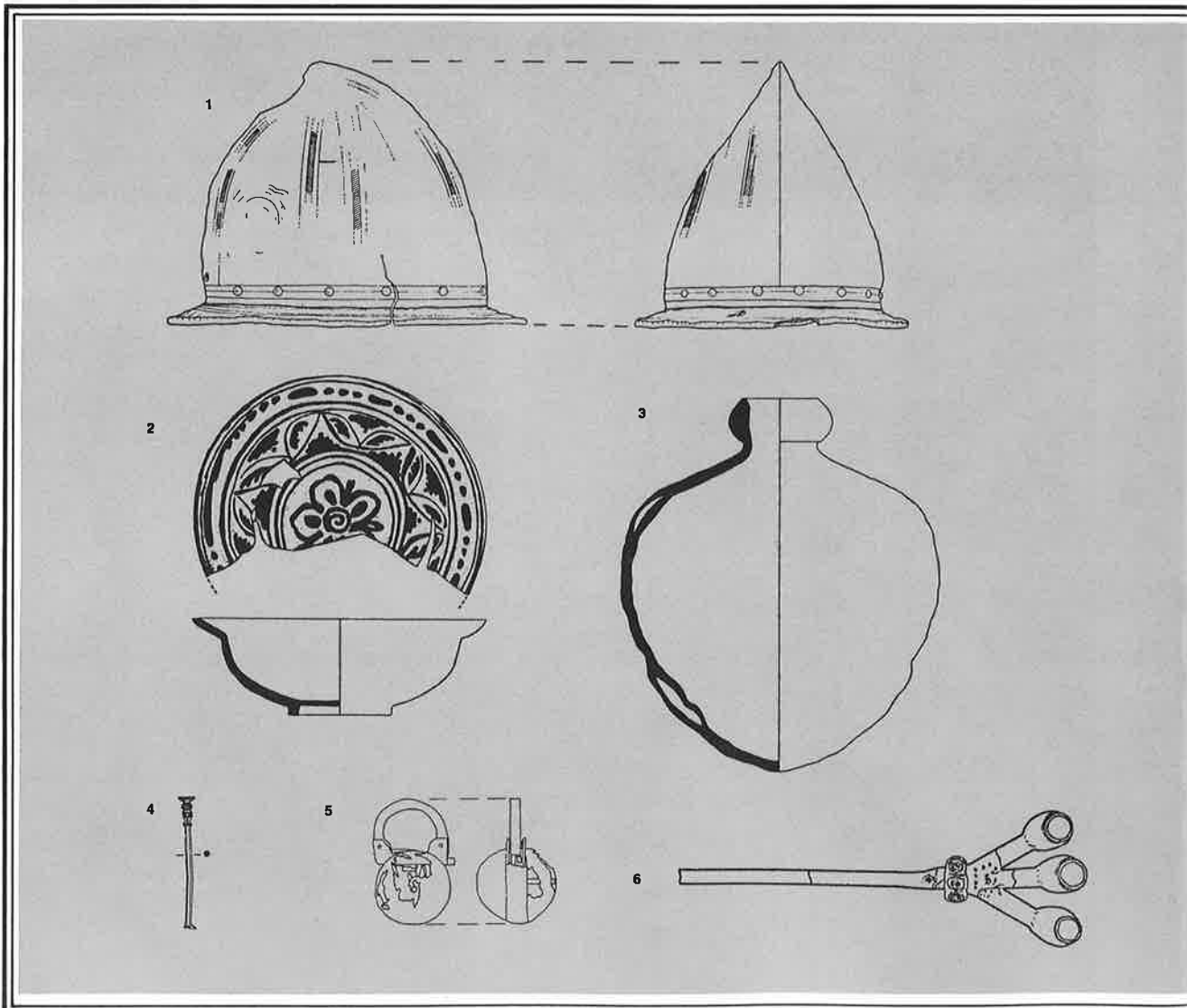


Unexpectedly, an Indian ossuary was found on the edge of the Maine site in 1976. Representing a secondary interment of twelve human skeletons, the remains were deposited in spatially distinct bone groups wrapped in mats for reburial. Two radio carbon dates of  $1260 \pm 50$  and  $1245 \pm 125$  were obtained, making the deposit the earliest reported for this burial practice in the Chesapeake. Since ossuaries are generally associated with the end of the Woodland Period (1000-1600 AD), the early date of the Governor's Land ossuary points to the need for closer examination of the development of this burial practice in the region.

In 1977 and 1978 excavations at Governor's Land centered upon a dwelling characteristic of a third and more documented wave of settlement, the Drummond Plantation, ca. 1650-1750. William Drummond was a member of the colonial elite who obtained a Governor's Land lease patent for 25 acres in 1648, and became a substantial landowner

after patenting 4,750 acres in Westmoreland County in 1661 and 1,200 acres in James City County in 1662. An early favorite of Governor Berkeley, Drummond was appointed first Governor of North Carolina in 1664, a position he held for three years. Later he fell into disfavor with Berkeley and was called to court in 1673 for allegedly defaulting on construction of a fort for defense against the Dutch. As a major supporter of Bacon's Rebellion, in 1676 he deliberately put to torch a brick house he owned on Jamestown Island to demonstrate his devotion to the rebel cause. In January 1677 he was hanged by Berkeley following capture in the Chickahominy swamp. The Drummond family apparently occupied Governor's Land into the first half of the 18th century.

Excavations uncovered an  $18' \times 36'$  house framed around hole-set posts, with a central H-shaped chimney. Numerous repairs indicated it stood for a long time. The main house was surrounded by fences and planting



ditches dividing the plantation landscape into such different functional areas as forecourt, service yard, kitchen garden, orchard, graveyard, and craft area. The complex included at least eleven buildings, six wells and an enclosed graveyard with 5 graves.

A multidisciplinary approach is being employed to document the material remains. Specialists are analyzing the skeletal material and the organic and faunal remains. Local pipemaking and iron forging, two crafts apparently operating at the Drummond site, are under investigation, and locally-made earthenwares, recovered in great quantities throughout the Drummond period of occupation, are being examined to ascertain their role in the total ceramic assemblage. In addition, systematic soil sampling for analysis of chemicals, and soil screening for uniform recovery of artifacts have yielded quantifiable data that is being organized and graphically depicted by computers.

Near the Drummond site another, later,

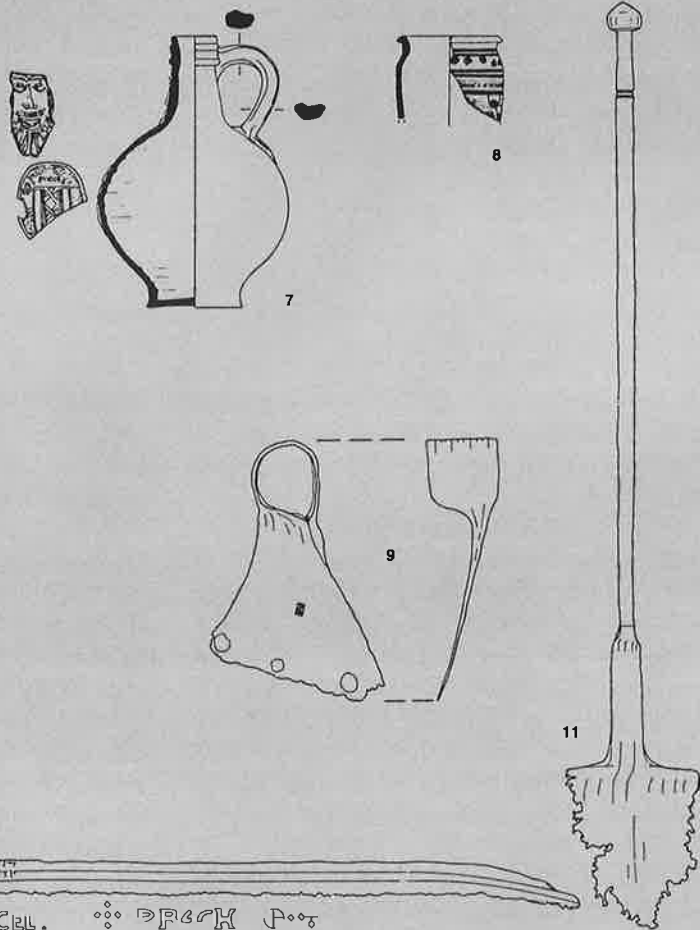
plantation dwelling will be excavated during the 1979 season. Identified as the Harris complex, it further extends the ideal opportunity at Governor's Land to study the evolution of plantation landscape and to increase the meager documentary data on 17th and 18th century Tidewater. The unearthed material culture provides graphic commentary on the changes that occurred as Governor's Land altered from being a suburb of the 17th century colonial capital at Jamestown to a more remote area of the 18th century colonial capital at Williamsburg.

The VRCA's continuing excavation at Governor's Land offers opportunity for serious archaeological students to gain necessary field and lab experience. In addition, the work is generating a large and important collection of artifacts, lectures and tours of both the sites and laboratory facilities.

—by Alain C. Outlaw,  
Senior Historical Archaeologist VRCA

#### Governor's Land Artifacts

- 1 English cabasset helmet or pikeman's pot
- 2 Delftware bowl section
- 3 Fragment of Iberian coarse earthenware olive jar
- 4 Handle from brass seal-top spoon
- 5 Iron ball type padlock
- 6 Three bowl pipe of white ball clay bearing "EO," maker's name.
- 7 Rhenish brown salt-glazed stoneware "Bellamine" bottle.
- 8 Rim and body section from a delftware drug jar
- 9 Iron hoe
- 10 German steel rapier with counter-guard, inscribed "Celis Brach," maker's name
- 11 Iron fireplace shovel



•••• CEL.    •••• BRACH    P•••  
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## *Archaeology In The King's Realm: Excavations At Robert Carter's Corotoman*



To those who asked, planter Robert Carter gladly explained why rich men should grow richer. "We are," he wrote a friend in London, "but stewards of God's building: the more he lends us the larger he expects from us, and happy they that make a right use of their Master's talents."

By his own measure Carter was an immensely happy man, for he had received from his father and brother a large inheritance, a fortune by the standards of most men, and he made it into one of colonial Virginia's largest estates. By the time of his death in 1732 he measured his land holdings in hundreds of thousands of acres, owned a labor force of over seven hundred enslaved Africans, and possessed a balance in the Bank of England that was the envy of men on both sides of the Atlantic.

Generations of Virginians have been unabashedly fascinated by Robert Carter's legendary wealth. The curious sought the site of Corotoman, Carter's plantation on the north shore of the Rappahannock. The more bold, excited by tales of hidden wealth sank destructive pot holes into the low mounds of brick rubble that marked the site of the mansion Carter built about 1720 and which was destroyed by fire one winter's day in early 1729.

For the past two years the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, with financial support from the National Heritage and Conser-

vation Service and the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, has conducted intensive archaeological excavations on the site of Carter's home plantation in Lancaster County. The object of the project is an increased understanding of the relationship of materials things to the social and intellectual forces which shaped Virginia's oligarchic elite early in the 18th century.

Corotoman today lies within the small, rural community of Weems. A public boat ramp and oyster houses stand near where a warehouse once received the trade of the sloop Carter and other ships of the Chesapeake Bay tobacco fleets. Neat residences and closely mown lawns hide the locations of the ruined manor houses and buildings that once were Carter households. In searching for this long-vanished plantation, the 1977 survey crew utilized information collected in 1969 by Ivor Noël Hume, Resident Archaeologist of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and in 1976 by Dr. William M. Kelso, then Commissioner of Archaeology in Virginia.

With this information and historical data collected by Mrs. Conrad H. Goodwin, the survey crew established a grid of fifty foot blocks oriented to the river front facade of the eighteenth century mansion Noël Hume had already identified. By setting the grid on the river orientation the survey obtained important clues to the spatial and chronological

Above: Large Rhenish stoneware drinking jugs damaged in the fire that destroyed Robert Carter's manor house in 1729.

Right, middle: Excavation of the western closet of Robert Carter's mansion revealed evidence of his legendary wine cellars. Over 250 wine bottles were recovered from this concentration.

relationships between different periods of occupation at the plantation. Recent archaeological studies in the Chesapeake have demonstrated the colonial planters slowly shifted the orientation of their houses from north-south sitings to arrangements more responsive to the nearest river, inland roads, or the dictates of expansive yards and gardens. The grid at Corotoman assumed that buildings oriented to the 18th century mansion were chronologically related, while those that had a different orientation fit another building period. Excavation later in the summer proved this hypothesis correct.

The survey crew located archaeological features by subsurface probing and by reading cropmarks in grasses withered by the extremely hot, dry summer weather of 1977. Small test excavations over wall lines and possible trash dumps yielded artifacts which indicated construction and destruction dates for buildings or features. By summer's end five colonial buildings, their yards and their refuse spots had been identified, mute testimony to life at Corotoman from mid-17th century until the eve of the Civil War.

John Carter, an immigrant from London and progenitor of the Carter family in Virginia, initially acquired the lands that became the center of Corotoman. By 1653 he had constructed near the mouth of Carter's Creek on the Rappahannock River a small, two-roomed, 21' x 32' frame dwelling with a single brick chimney in its western end. Evidence from test excavations in one of the trash middens near this house suggests that though John Carter's political power increased until he was a member of the King's Council; his house furnishings changed little in quantity or quality during his occupation.

In 1669 Carter's eldest son John inherited an estate that encompassed 6000 acres. This younger John lived at Corotoman for the next twenty years, adding prodigiously to the plantation's acreage and labor force. Archaeological evidence suggests, however, he continued to live on the same modest scale as his father, occupying the same house and setting his table with the same unpretentious ceramic wares his parents had found satisfactory. Dying without heirs in 1690, John willed

the plantation to his half brother Robert. Under Robert's supervision the scale of life at Corotoman changed dramatically, reaching a level matched by few other estates in the colony.

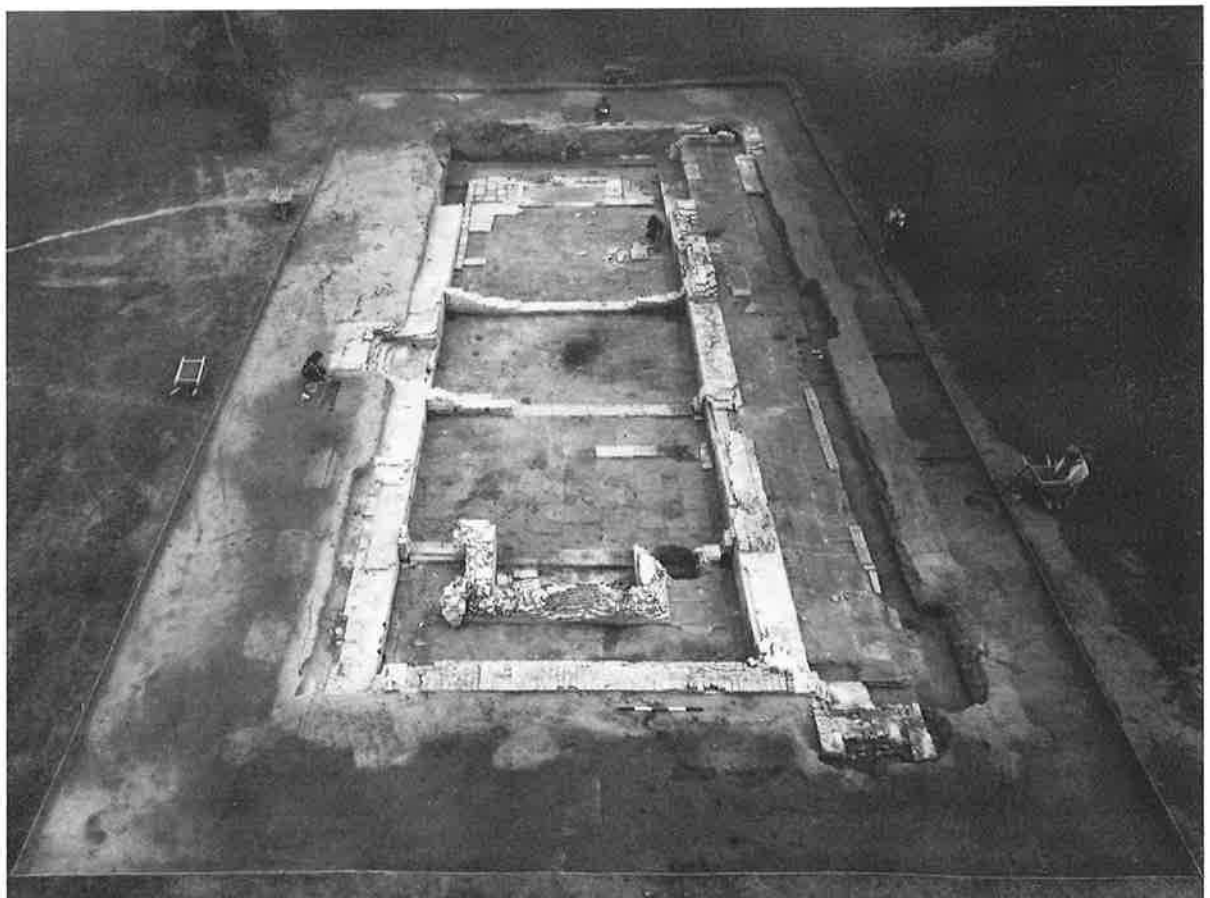
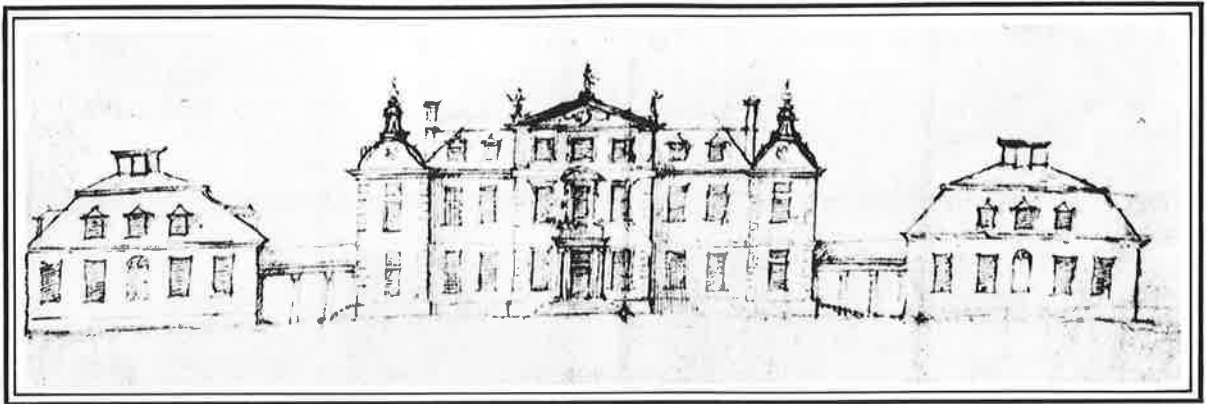
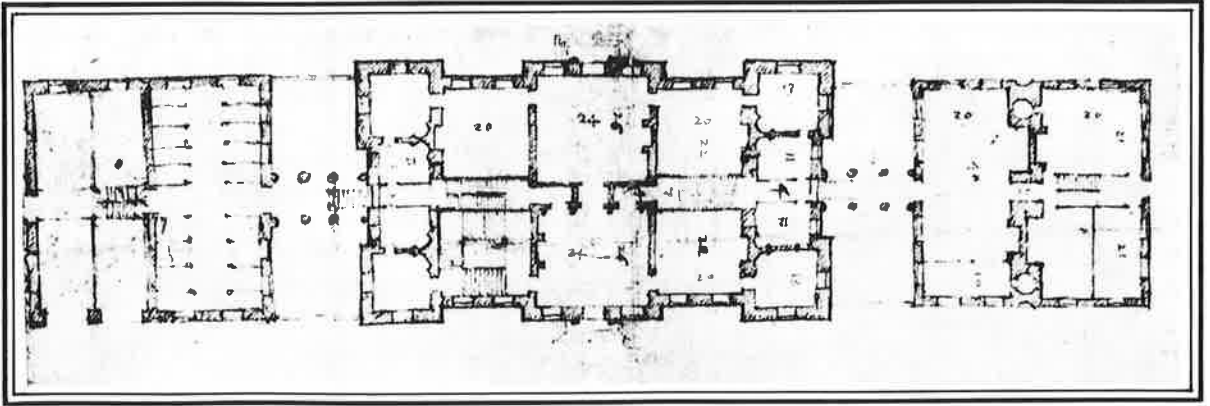
Robert Carter had spent six years in boarding school in England and had returned to Virginia by 1685 to construct at Corotoman a dwelling in which he raised his family and began a political career that took him from county government to the King's Council. Three test excavations of his first house showed it was a brick story-and-a-half structure of three rooms. He lived in it until he moved into the larger two-story mansion which dominated the Corotoman landscape for a decade beginning about 1720.

Later, after destruction of the mansion and the death of Robert Carter, the Corotoman plantation entered the third, longest and least visible period of its early history. Even before their father's death in 1732, Robert's sons had built their own residences at other plantations,

so that though Corotoman remained an important part of the Carter land holdings, it was never again the family seat. The ruined mansion was not rebuilt, but became instead the source of materials for other, humbler buildings such as a T-shaped structure which served as the plantation overseer's quarters until the end of the 18th century.



The VRCA's second season of excavation at Corotoman centered on the ruins of Robert Carter's once magnificent mansion. From June through December 1978 archaeologists removed tons of debris from the ruined foundations of what had been a 40' x 90' building crowned by a hipped roof. Large for its day, the house was composed of two distinct sections outlined by 30" walls. Visitors approaching from the land side were greeted by a relatively unadorned, flat facade, pierced at the center by a flight of steps leading up to the first floor level. Load-bearing walls in the mansion's basement indicated that on the first floor two large rooms, both with massive hearths, flanked a spacious, unheated hall. Fragments of polished white marble pavers found shattered in the basement suggest the hall was paved with marble tiles. Narrow closets set behind the chimney stacks



A view to the east of the excavated foundation of the 40'x90' Georgian style mansion of Robert "King" Carter at Corotoman.

Top and middle: The inspiration for Carter's Lancaster County mansion may have been such a plan as this for an English country house by Sir Christopher Wren.

provided storage or pantry space.

The core of Robert Carter's mansion is similar to that of many 18th century Virginia houses, but its size, lavish architectural detail, and a narrow undivided portico that extended all along the river front facade distinguished it from its more modest neighbors. The foundation walls of the portico, which were slightly less substantial than those which framed the mansion's core, supported a facade more complicated and animated than the flat land front. At each end and at the center of the river front facade the walls projected one and one half feet beyond the primary facade plane to form balancing end pavilions and a central porch pavilion. Fragments of cut stone and intricately molded and rubbed bricks suggest that applied pilasters and door pediments enlivened its appearance. Few artifacts were found in the portico, a fact that strongly suggests that rather than formal indoor space the area formed an arcaded portico very much like the portico on the courtyard facade of the Wren building at the College of William and Mary.

Carter's contemporaries agreed that few men surpassed him in accomplishment. However, he was called "King" by critics as well as friends because of his imperious manner and because he sat, unmistakably, at the top of plantation society. The VRCA's excavations have found, unsurprisingly, that the interior of his house was richly furnished. In addition to the polished white marble tiles laid in intricate geometric patterns in the central hall, other carved and polished marble, as well as delft tiles, decorated his hearths. Broken ceramic tankards and storage vessels, Chinese porcelain tea cups, and hundreds of smashed wine bottles lay in the mansion's ruins as clues to how the house was furnished. Identification and analysis of the thousands of artifacts will not be complete for some months, but preliminary study indicates that the mansion's western room was the most lavishly decorated and richly paneled of the three first floor rooms. Fragments of a set of porcelain tea cups and a set of "capuchines" hint that this room was used as a formal parlour. A concentration of items related to clothing—buckles, clasps—suggest the eastern room was used as a bedchamber.

Carter's mansion and its furnishings are unmistakable reflections of his extraordinary wealth, but these objects convey another no

less important message about Virginia's colonial past. The planters who dominated Virginia during the last half of the seventeenth century had generally risen to prominence by pressing old family claims, old family associations, and modest cash resources that they rapidly turned into economic and political advantages after their arrival in the colony. While an elite, they were in some ways little different from the servant and tenant classes they dominated. Sons of the middle class, lacking gentility in breeding and behaviour, they made Virginia in a middle class image. John Carter, father and son, were of this generation.

The successors to these first substantial planters transformed the middle class world they inherited into something quite different. Their greed and ambition were no less, nor were their intentions any more, noble. They pursued the same crop and expanded the practice of slave labor. Yet the younger generation, of whom Robert Carter is perhaps the most conspicuous example, was fundamentally unlike its elders. Brute labor and economic success were no longer the sole determinants of political and social success. Robert Carter advised his son John that "to have a finical (sic) inside and not a suitable covering for the outside will make but a schymity gentleman." The modish architectural details that graced both the interior and exterior of his mansion are the heightened projection of this attitude, its marble floors and applied pilasters having a purpose beyond establishing the fact of gentlemanly cultivation. For as the brick mansion at Corotoman rose, Carter widened the gap between himself and his less wealthy neighbors. By an architectural feat that could be shared by very few he erected a highly visible symbol that consolidated his social and political status and insured the continuing deference of his neighbors, both rich and poor.

The VRCA's future work at Corotoman centers on continuing to define Robert Carter's plantation world. Rich documentation from Lancaster County records, unexcavated buildings and refuse heaps, outlying slave quarters and other unsurveyed areas of plantation activity all await investigation projected over ten to fifteen years. During 1979 the site of the 17th century John Carter house will be excavated. Plans are also under way to stabilize the mansion ruins and include them in the Foundation for Historic Christ Church's interpretation of Robert Carter and his world.

—By Carter L. Hudgins,  
Project Field Supervisor



## *New Archaeological Exhibit*

The VHLC's Research Center for Archaeology announces the opening of a new display in their archaeological exhibit room in the basement of the Wren Building, College of William and Mary.

This display, entitled "Foraging, Feasting, and Fast Foods: The Archaeology of Virginia's Foodways," opened in May. Using a combination of graphics, interpre-

tive models, and artifacts from archaeological sites throughout the Commonwealth, the new exhibit will emphasize 12,000 years of food procurement and consumption in Virginia.

The public is invited to visit this free display weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### *Notes on Landmarks* (continued from page 23)

**Loew's Theatre, Richmond:** Recently declared eligible for nomination to the Virginia and National Registers, this famous movie palace, long a landmark in downtown Richmond, has been purchased by the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. Money is now being sought to restore the theatre for the Symphony's permanent home. Loew's was designed by John Ebersson of New York.

**Old First Baptist Church, Richmond:** Plans to demolish the noted Greek Revival church designed by the nationally famous architect Thomas U. Walter and erect a new Medical College of Virginia building on its site have been shelved temporarily. The church is receiving structural repair and a new master-plan study for MCV will attempt to decide the most appropriate use of the property.

**Old Mansion, Caroline County:** Construction of the southwest quadrant of the by-pass around Bowling Green has been officially abandoned by

the Virginia Department of Highways. In a planning stage for over a decade, the by-pass would have encroached on the grounds of Old Mansion, an outstanding Colonial manor house and the first landmark on which the VHLC accepted a preservation easement.

**Putney Houses, Richmond:** The Medical College of Virginia is renovating the two Italianate townhouses, distinguished by outstanding cast-iron porches, for offices. Plans to dismantle the houses and re-erect them across the street from the Valentine Museum have been abandoned.

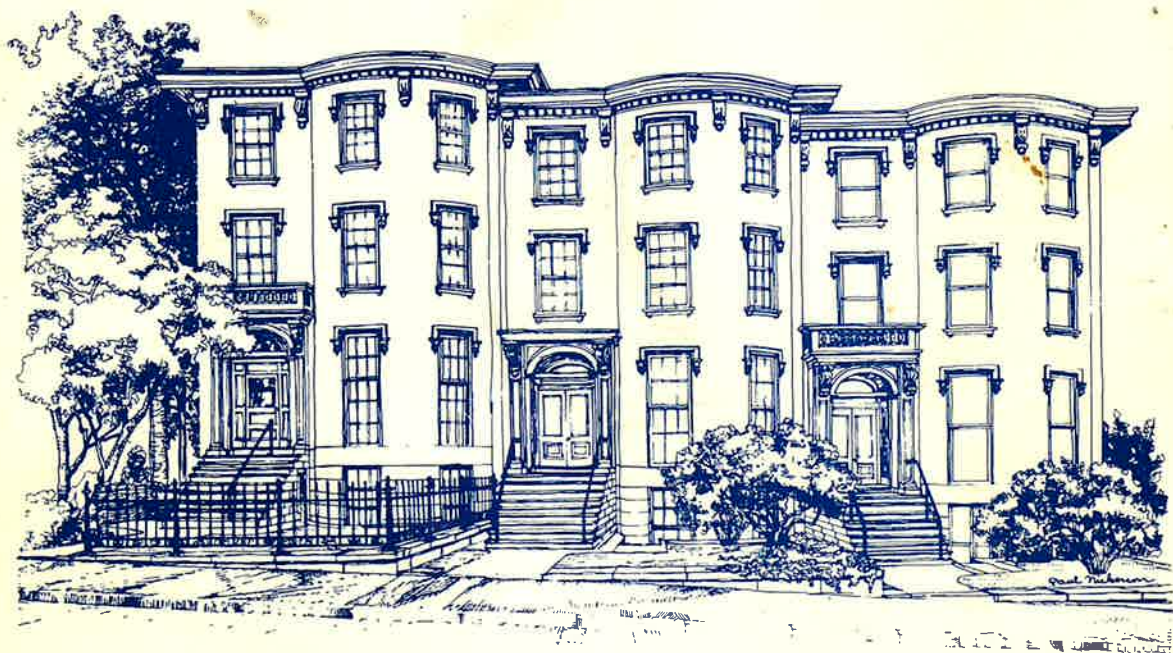
**Westover, Charles City County:** A reception was given by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in January for all who participated in the Historic American Buildings Survey recording project on Westover. The event was marked by the opening of a special exhibit in the Public Records Office of HABS drawings and photographs as well as Westover related materials from the Williamsburg collections.



**Preston House, Smyth County:** Word has been received that the Preston House, a finely detailed early-Republican dwelling overlooking the town of Saltville was demolished over a year ago. Associated with the prominent southwestern

Virginia family, the house has been partly dismantled at the time it was registered in 1976. Local efforts to raise money to purchase and restore the house failed and the site was developed for new housing.

MORSON'S ROW



**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**  
Morson's Row  
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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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