

Notes on Virginia

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Published by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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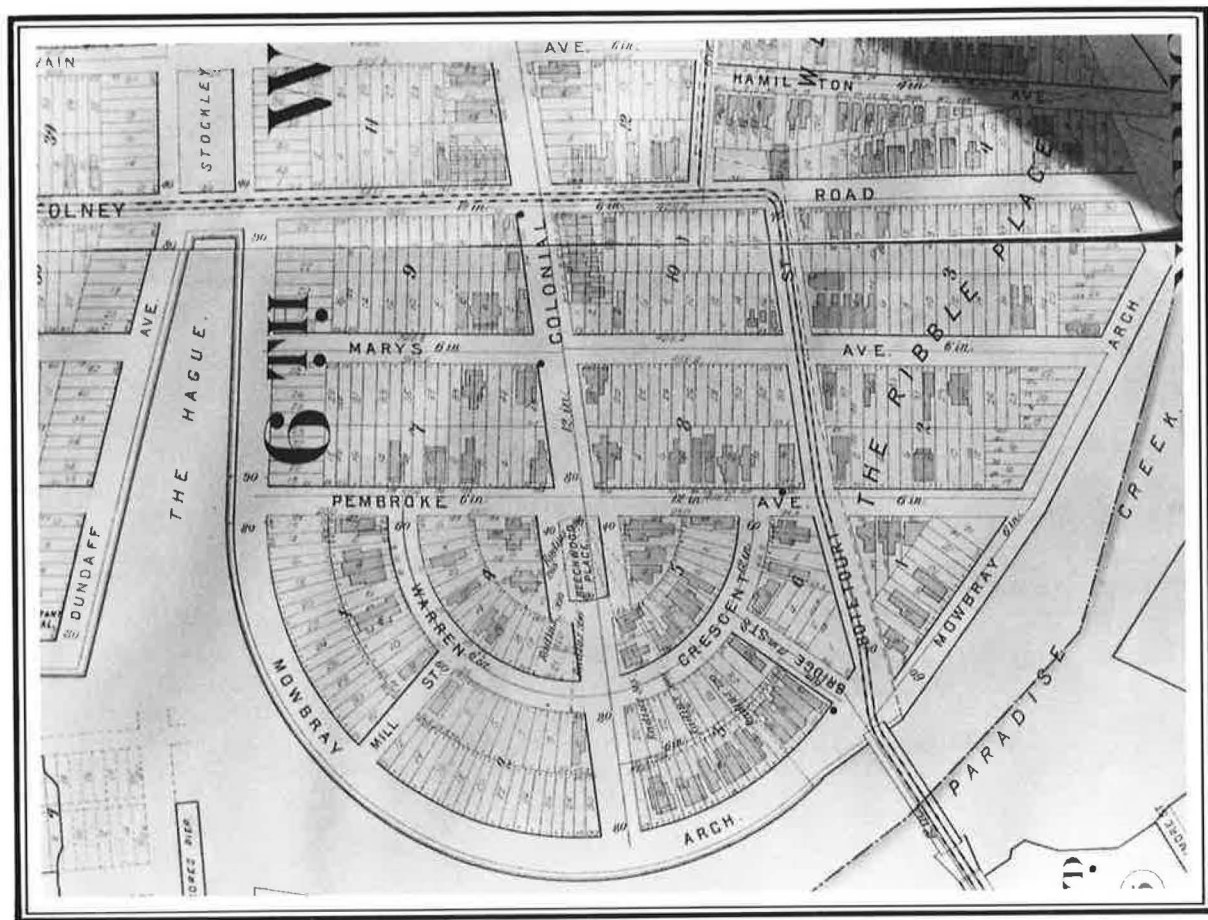
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GHENT



Norfolk's Planned Suburb of the 1890s



Mowbray Arch, Ghent from *Atlas of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Berkeley, Virginia, 1900*

The decades between 1890 and 1930, a time of intensive land speculation across America, resulted in a large number of newly-planned residential suburban developments. Suburbs ranged in size from five or ten blocks of residential development to completely planned communities providing commercial, recreational, and educational facilities.

Popular plans of the period tended to follow three patterns. First were suburban developments based upon the romantic landscape theories of A. J. Downing, Alexander Davis, and Frederick Law Olmsted. These plans espoused the exploitation of the natural landscape, the subdivision of land into large building sites, and the laying of

roads in curvilinear patterns which followed the natural contours of the terrain. A second approach proposed the continuation of a city's existing grid plan, with provisions for tree-lined avenues and regularly-placed parks. A third planning philosophy, based largely on Beaux Arts theories, was introduced after the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. It endorsed the grouping of public buildings into a formal civic center, the use of broad avenues, and the placement of public monuments as visual termini in the town fabric. Residential development surrounding such a civic center followed either a grid or curvilinear plan.

By 1910 virtually every major American city had at least one suburban development based upon

these plans. In June 1979, the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission nominated to the Virginia Landmarks Register and to the National Register of Historic Places portions of the Ghent suburb of Norfolk, a well-preserved example of turn-of-the-century suburban planning in the Tidewater area. The area is now recognized as the Ghent Historic District.

The Ghent area began developing in 1890, with most construction occurring between 1892 and 1907. Located several blocks west of Norfolk's present commercial core, Ghent originally covered approximately 220 acres. Although most of Ghent was laid along a standard grid plan, the siting of the south section of the suburb along Smith's Creek, a

artery connecting the two arms of the creek and providing east-west access to downtown Norfolk.

Before its late 19th-century development, Ghent was a large farm, taking in what was known as Pleasant Point. In 1810 William Martin deeded the land to Jaspar Moran. According to tradition, he soon renamed the area "Ghent" to commemorate the signing of the treaty ending the War of 1812. The conclusion of the war was of great economic significance for Norfolk, for it resulted in the reopening of sea lanes after years of embargo. In 1830 Commodore Richard Drummond purchased the plantation, retaining its name of Ghent. The area remained farmland until 1890, when the Norfolk Company, a newly formed land investment



View of Mowbray Arch. Post card, Ca. 1902



View of Colonial Avenue Avenue, from *Artwork of Norfolk, Virginia, 1902*.

Y-shaped inlet from the Elizabeth River, suggested a different planning approach. Marshlands at this area were filled and the shoreline given a semicircular shape. The resulting street, Mowbray Arch, soon became the favored location for the stately houses of Norfolk's middle and upper-middle class residents.

Ghent's plan was not particularly innovative, but it successfully exploited the area's strategic waterfront location, providing views over the creek to the grass banks on the opposite shore. Ghent originally covered more than thirty blocks, but the Mowbray Arch section displays the highest concentration of 19th-century houses. This area is contained by Smith's Creek and Olney Road, a four-lane traffic

firm, purchased it as a speculative venture.

The company's choice of Ghent was largely determined by three factors: the projected expansion of trolley car routes west of Smith's Creek; the recent construction of a toll bridge across Smith's Creek north from Duke Street (completed in 1887); and the annexation in 1890 of Atlantic City (site of the Ghent farm) as the sixth ward of Norfolk. As added incentive for development, the annexation legislation specifically permitted deviations from the Norfolk building code.

The Norfolk Company contracted John Graham, a civil engineer from Philadelphia, to lay out the new suburb. His plan offered such modern amenities of urban life as sewers, gas pipes, water

mains, paved streets, and granolithic sidewalks. All streets were originally landscaped with silver maples and magnolias, although many of these have been replaced now by water oaks and sycamores.

Work on laying the streets, filling the marsh land, and shaping the shoreline of Mowbray Arch into a smooth semicircle proceeded from 1890 through 1907. The first house completed is said to have been built by John Graham in 1892. By 1893 ten buildings had been finished or were under construction. At the time, lots in Ghent sold for \$2500 each and houses sold for up to \$20,000. With the expansion of trolley car routes to the suburbs in 1894, building in the area accelerated. By 1900, when two trolley lines served the area, more than one hundred houses



John E. Maxwell residence, 412 Mowbray Arch, Ca. 1899

town Exposition of 1907; the Mowbray (ca. 1914); and the Warren (ca. 1930).

Several late 19th-century architectural styles appear, with Dutch Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Shingle styles predominating. Although only a few buildings in the Ghent Historic District can be attributed to a specific architect, it is believed many of the designs came from the offices of Norfolk architects Peebles and Ferguson, Carpenter and Peebles, Charles M. Cassell, James Calloway Teague, G. B. Williams, and George C. Moser.

Ghent's significance as a planned and architecturally interesting suburb is enhanced by its being representative of large-scale European land speculation in America at the turn of the century. The



340-46 Fairfax Avenue, Ca. 1899



400 block Mowbray Arch

Norfolk Company was a subcorporation of Blake, Boissevain and Company, a merger of Dutch, New York, and London interests that financed railroads in America. Three subsidiaries, the Virginia Land Company, the Virginia Investment Association, and the Consolidated Coal, Iron and Land Company, developed land from Norfolk, Virginia, to Columbus, Ohio. Subsidiaries of the land company were the Norfolk Company, the Ghent-Norfolk Company, and the Portsmouth Company. Local founding directors of the Norfolk Company were Richard B. Tunstall, Alfred P. Thom, Fergus Reid, C. G. Ramsey, Walter H. Taylor, and N. M. Osborne, most of whom built houses for themselves and their families in the new Ghent suburb.

The developers retained the farmstead's name of Ghent because of its historic and romantic European associations. Although no architectural controls existed at this early date, many builders picked designs suggestive of European architecture. Drawings by the English architect Richard Norman Shaw, reproduced in popular contemporary architectural publications, were probably inspiration for architects of Ghent's Queen Anne houses.

Further attempts to solidify ties between Ghent, Norfolk and its European namesake occurred in 1897 when the western arm of Smith's Creek was christened "The Hague." Ceremonies at the naming celebration paid honor to the Dutch roots of the Norfolk Company and to the parent company's



Pembroke Avenue, looking east from Beechwood Park

and the grounds, as a rule are spacious and handsomely adorned with shade trees and shrubbery . . ." "Ghent," Morrison observed, "is the new swell district of Norfolk."

Although the majority of dwellings in Ghent were completed by 1907, improvements continued on the Hague and Smith's Creek. In 1909 the city appropriated \$3,000 to purchase stone for the continuation of the western arm of the Mowbray Arch sea wall. The western bulkhead of the Hague was completed in 1919. The semicircular sea wall to the east was finished three years later. The last major project in Ghent, evidence of its continuing prestige, was the erection of the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences in 1933 (Peebles and Ferguson,



Richard B. Tunstall residence, 530 Pembroke Avenue, 1892-93

early representative in Norfolk, J. P. Andre Mottu. As late as 1911 promoters sought parallels between Ghent and European prototypes. Referring to a proposed extension of water vistas of the Hague, the Norfolk City Beautification Commission observed, "Already the driveway which is to be built on both sides of the water has been christened 'Norfolk Way,' and in a few years it ought to rank with Queen's Road of Bombay or the grand boulevards of European cities where water and land have been made to meet so attractively."

The 400 block of Mowbray Arch presented the most romantic view of Ghent at the turn of the century. Embodying the suburb's most appealing characteristics of water, greenery, and European-inspired architecture, this view of Ghent was seized upon by local land promoters, the Board of Trade, and the Chamber of Commerce in their city booster efforts. It was reproduced on post cards and in numerous trade and souvenir publications for tourist and promotional consumption for being representative of Norfolk's modern housing. Accompanying the views were captions extolling the area's beauty and the modernity of the city's new sewer, gas, and water systems.

In 1893 city booster Andrew Morrison wrote in his book *Pictures in Maritime Dixie* that Ghent possessed "Norfolk's brand-newest, tastiest and costliest, most stylish and attractive homes . . . The streets in this quarter, unlike those of its older parts, are wide. The mansions, many of them, are palatial,

and Calrow, Browne, and FitzGibbon, architects).

Following World War II Ghent entered a period of gradual decline. An attempt to reverse it began in 1960 when the area was declared a code enforcement area. Two years later the Norfolk City Council recommended that Ghent be declared a conservation area by the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Subsequently the Ghent Neighborhood League was formed. Together with the NRHA, the League has worked to revitalize the area by rehabilitating numerous houses and re-landscaping streets.

No longer a suburb, Ghent now offers intimate in-town housing within walking distance of Norfolk's commercial core. Its handsome architecture, tree-lined streets, and attractive waterfront location provide residents of Ghent with a most appealing residential neighborhood.

—By Barry N. Zarakov
Architectural Historian

The nomination of the Ghent Historic District is part of the VHLC's continuing effort to recognize important examples of urban planning, streetscape, and urban architecture of the late 19th and 20th centuries. It is hoped that such historic district identification will in all cases be coordinated with local protective zoning, and will provide incentives for the preservation of this important part of Virginia's cultural legacy.

VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

The VHLC is pleased to note the following additions made to the Virginia Landmarks Register during the summer and autumn of 1979. The Register was established by the General Assembly in 1966 for the purpose of identifying properties within the Commonwealth worthy of preservation. It currently lists over 850 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 about each of approximately six hundred properties included in the Register, and is profusely illustrated.



Loew's Theatre, Richmond

Eastern Virginia & Richmond

CEDAR GROVE, NEW KENT COUNTY: Cedar Grove, a modest Federal-style farmhouse, is a landmark of the social and cultural past of New Kent County. The oldest portion of the present house was built ca. 1810 for Robert Christian, a county leader. Born and buried on the property was Letitia Christian Tyler, first wife of President John Tyler.

CENTENARY CHURCH, RICHMOND: This familiar downtown landmark is the city's oldest Methodist church and one of its chief examples of the Gothic Revival style. The original building dates from 1843. It was completely remodeled in 1874-76 by Albert L. West, Richmond's most noted mid-19th-century architect, who gave the building its present appearance.

GHENT HISTORIC DISTRICT, NORFOLK: The result of an 1890 land speculation venture, the Ghent suburb of Norfolk originally covered over two hundred acres. The Ghent Historic District is defined by the portion of the suburb contained within Olney Road and Smith's Creek. Laid out by the Philadelphia civil engineer John Graham, Ghent was Norfolk's first planned suburb to offer such modern amenities as sewer, water and gas

lines. To exploit Ghent's waterfront location, Graham reshaped the creek into a semicircle, landscaping its banks with native trees. The suburb quickly attracted Norfolk's middle- to upper-middle class residents as a location for their stately new houses. Developed between 1890-1905, Ghent survives today with a rich collection of domestic architecture set off by the neighborhood's plan and landscaping.

LOEW'S THEATER, RICHMOND: Recently purchased for use as a concert hall by the Richmond Symphony, Loew's was considered the most up-to-date theater in the South when it opened in 1928. Although altered during the 1960s, the building retains the flavor of the "movie palace" designed by renowned theatre architect John Eberson. Both the interior and exterior are embellished with exotic, romanticized decor and a mixture of Moorish and Spanish Colonial Revival styles. An imposing corner tower established the building as a major visual and cultural landmark within the urban landscape.

ROSE HILL, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY: The present house at Rose Hill is among the earliest and best-preserved single-pile, frame houses in



Cedar Grove, New Kent County



Rose Hill, Southampton County



Mobray Arch, Ghent Historic District, Norfolk



Centenary Church, Richmond

Southampton County. The land on which it stands was deeded to John T. Blow by the Nottoway Indian tribe in 1792, bringing to a close a long era of settlement by the Weyanoke and Nottoway tribes. As recently as the early 20th century, Indians gathered on the Rose Hill property for religious and cultural purposes. The house is embellished with handsomely executed mantels and wainscoting which retain their original graining and marbling throughout.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: One of the architectural highlights of the county seat community of Heathsville,

St. Stephen's is an excellent example of the Wooden Gothic or "Carpenter Gothic" style popular throughout America in the mid-19th century. Consecrated in 1881, a full generation after that style had reached its zenith in other parts of the country, the building is evidence of rural Virginia's architectural conservatism.

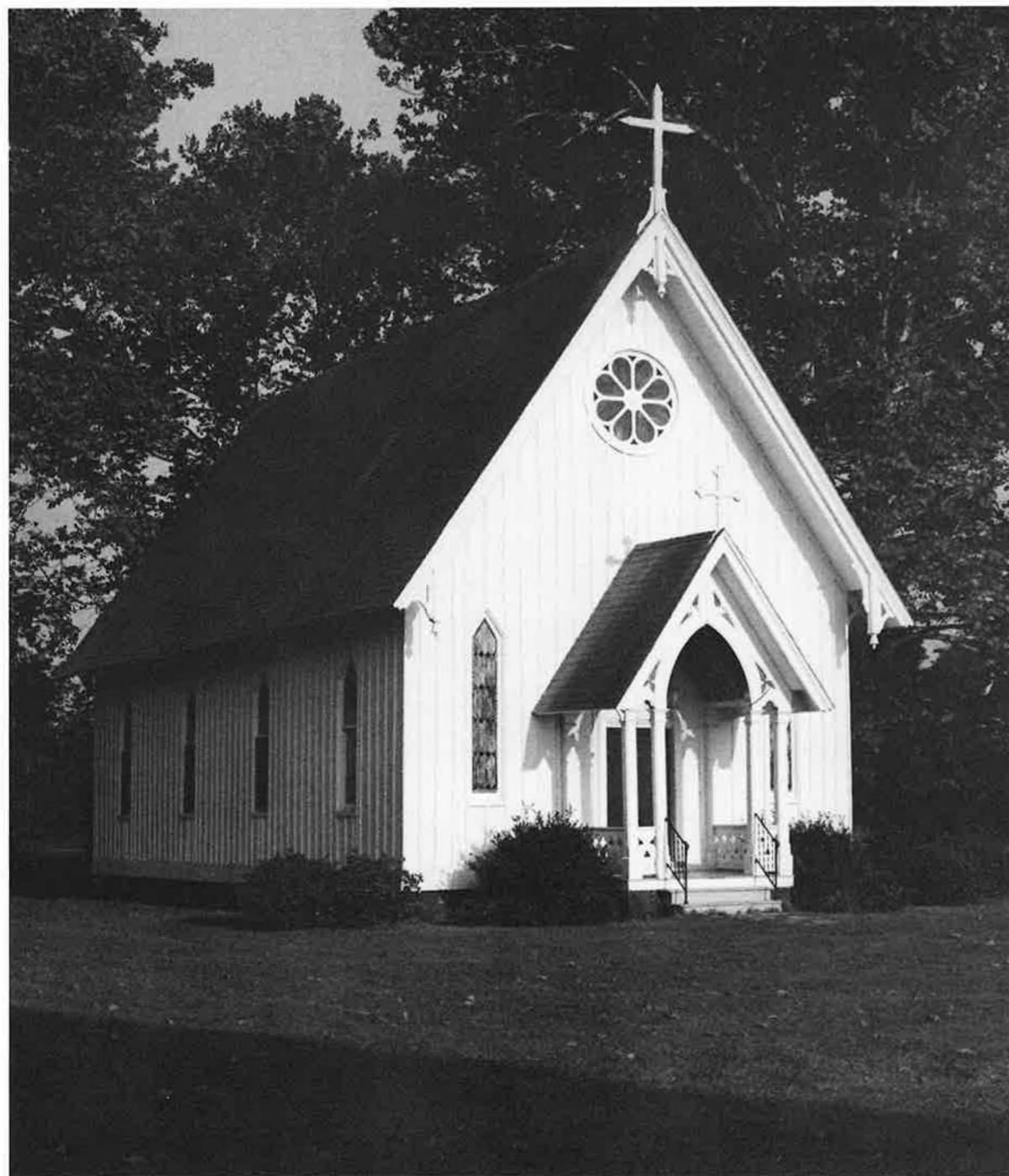
TIMBERNECK, GLOUCESTER COUNTY: Timberneck is a broad peninsula bordered by creeks flowing into the York River. The property is significant for its rambling Post-Revolutionary farmhouse, which has striking, well-preserved interior appointments, including a fine stair and much

original hardware. With its rural setting, early smokehouse, rare 19th-century picket fence, old trees, and commanding view of the York, Timberneck is a substantially undisturbed Tidewater plantation. It is associated with the Catlett and Mann families, both prominent in the social and political history of Gloucester County.

SNOW HILL, SURRY COUNTY: Snow Hill is a handsomely proportioned provincial Georgian farmhouse constructed in 1836. The restrained and carefully delineated graining and marbling of the interior woodwork is a well-preserved reminder of a form of interior decoration which formerly

characterized the rural houses of the Commonwealth. The craft of fancy painting involved the decorative treatment of interior woodwork in imitation of fine woods and marbles.

SPRINGFIELD, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Springfield is an imposing Federal-style house dominating an extensive tract of land on the edge of the county seat village of Heathsville. Erected in 1828 by the prosperous merchant William Harding, the house was enlarged and renovated in 1850, and ranks among the finest Post-Revolutionary seats of the Northern Neck.



St. Stephen's Church, Northumberland County



Timberneck, Gloucester County



Springfield, Northumberland County



Snow Hill, Surry County

0-100 BLOCK EAST FRANKLIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, RICHMOND: This compact historic district is a small urban neighborhood approximately 1½ blocks in area. It is characterized by its interesting and varied collection of mid- to-late 19th-century brick townhouses, two and three stories in height. The most prodigious dwelling is the Kent-Valentine House, now the headquarters of the Garden Club of Virginia. With most of its buildings now used as offices and shops, the neighborhood is a good example of preservation of the historic fabric of a busy downtown area.



0-100 Block East Franklin Street Historic District, Richmond



Morton's Tea Room, 0-100 Block East Franklin Street Historic District, Richmond

WYOMING, KING WILLIAM COUNTY: This two-story, five-bay frame house was built around 1800 for the Hoomes family. While maintaining the traditional Virginia-Georgian flavor of earlier decades, Wyoming is considerably larger both in exterior dimensions and room sizes than other Tidewater homes of the same style, and it may be the largest house of its plan type (hall-parlor-center-passage) in Virginia. The house symbolizes the extensive rebuilding of residential architecture that took place in the Virginia countryside following the Revolution. The name may allude to the Revolutionary battle of Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, or to the Indian word for a plain.



Chimney Piece, Wyoming, King William County



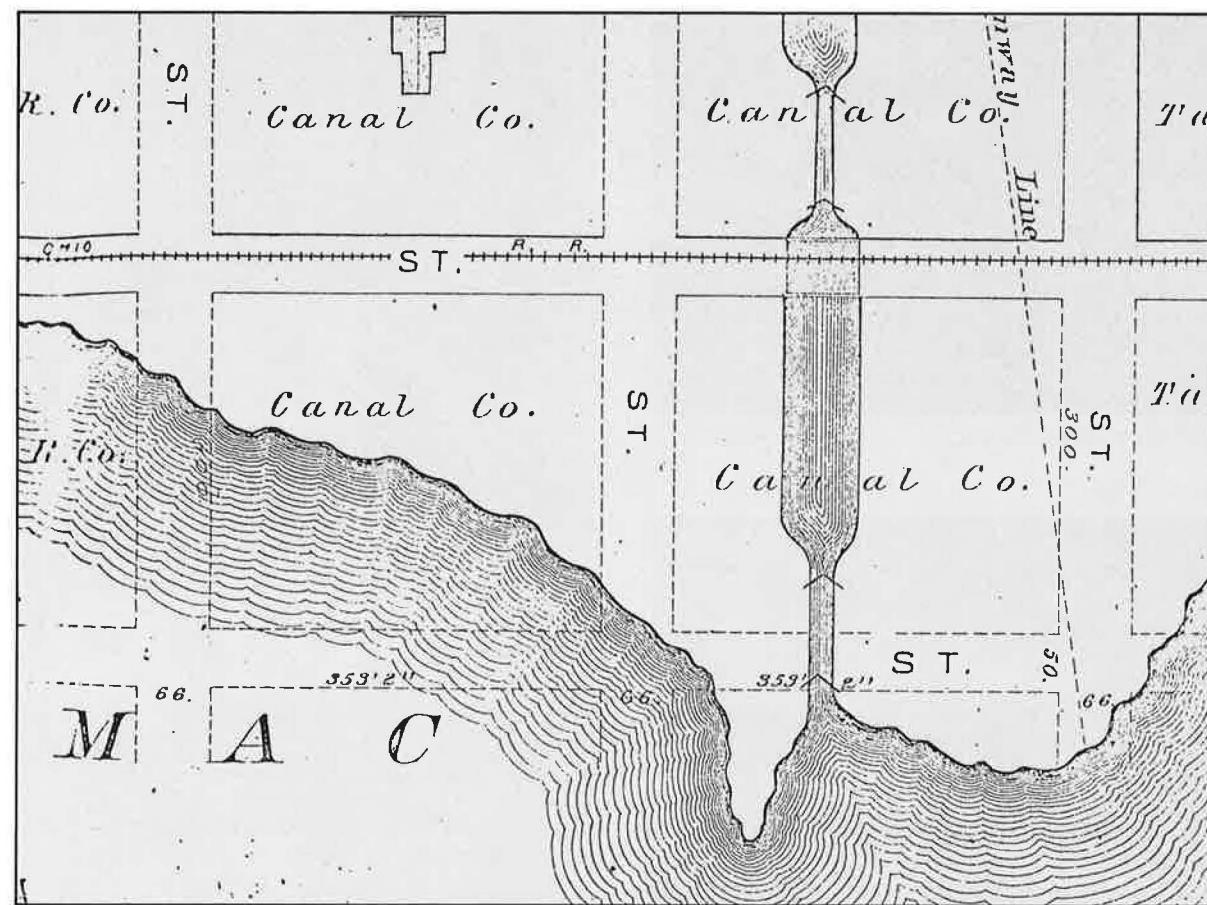
Wyoming, King William County

Northern Virginia

ALEXANDRIA CANAL LOCK AND HOLDING BASIN, ALEXANDRIA: The Alexandria Canal system was begun in 1834 and completed in 1843. The tide lock and holding basin, the only remaining portions of the system in the city, are important relics of industrial archaeology, representing a major cause of the economic rebirth of Alexandria in the mid-19th century. The canal

remained in operation until 1886 and was used largely for the transportation of coal to industries in the area and to other cities served by the port of Alexandria.

OLD DOMINION BANK BUILDING, ALEXANDRIA: The Old Dominion Bank was incorporated in 1851. Construction of its temple-



Alexandria Canal, from 1877 City Atlas of Alexandria, Virginia



Old Dominion Bank Building, Alexandria



Civil War photograph of Old Dominion Bank by Matthew Brady

form headquarters on Alexandria's prestigious Prince Street began immediately. The building was used as a bank until 1907, when it was converted to a warehouse. It later served as a church and is now an exhibition hall for the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association. The handsome but compact Doric structure survives as a rare example of distinguished commercial architecture of the antebellum period.

CARLHEIM, LOUDOUN COUNTY: Carlheim is one of Virginia's few large Victorian mansions dating from the early 1870s, a period when few important dwellings were erected because of the economic ruin following the Civil War. The 32-

room stone house and its several outbuildings were designed by Henry C. Dudley of New York for Charles R. Paxton, a wealthy Pennsylvania industrialist. Now known as the Paxton Memorial Home, the estate serves as a charitable school for children.

FRANKLIN AND ARMFIELD OFFICE, ALEXANDRIA: From this three-story brick structure on Duke Street one of the largest slave markets in the South was operated from 1828 to 1836. At its peak its owners, Isaac Franklin and John Armfield, had agents in almost every important Southern city, owned a fleet of sailing ships, and trafficked in thousands of slaves annually.



Carlheim, Loudoun County



Carlheim, parlor bay window



Franklin and Armfield Office, Alexandria



Franklin and Armfield Office during Civil War. Photograph from Library of Congress Collections

Piedmont & Southside

BEN VENUE, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY: Ben Venue is a conspicuous example of the architecturally distinctive farmsteads established in Rappahannock and other northern Virginia counties in the early and mid-19th century. The house was constructed between 1844 and 1846 for William V. Fletcher, and is attributed to James Leake Powers, a local builder. Among its several outbuildings are three exceptionally interesting brick slave houses with architectural detailing following that of the main house.

FORT CHRISTANNA ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT, BRUNSWICK COUNTY: This 662-acre tract overlooking the Meherrin River contains the archaeological remains of Fort Christanna, erected in 1714 by Governor Alexander Spotswood as a defense against unfriendly Indian tribes. Also lying within the district are the sites of a Sapony Indian village complex, home of approximately 300 Sapony Indians who chose to live under the protection of the Colonial government, and a personal residence of Governor Spotswood, built to encourage growth and settlement in what was then a remote frontier area. Besides these tested and

confirmed sites, additional buildings are expected to be found.

HOBSON'S CHOICE, BRUNSWICK COUNTY: Erected in 1794, Hobson's Choice is a provincial example of the five-part, Palladian house scheme popularized by designs illustrated in Robert Morris's *Select Architecture* of 1755, a patternbook that influenced many 18th and 19th-century Virginia dwellings. The house was erected for Dr. Richard Feild, an Edinburgh-educated physician well known for his expertise in botany and astronomy. Feild also served as editor of the *Petersburg Commercial Advertiser* and *The Intelligencer*.

MAGNOLIA GRANGE, CHESTERFIELD COUNTY: This elegant Federal home, conspicuously located across from the Chesterfield County Courthouse, was built for William Winfree in 1823. The dwelling is one of the most sophisticated examples of early 19th-century architecture in the county, and is noted for its elaborate plasterwork ceiling medallions and cornices, as well as for its fine woodwork. Much of the trim is based on designs found in Asher Benjamin's *American Builder's Companion* (1806).



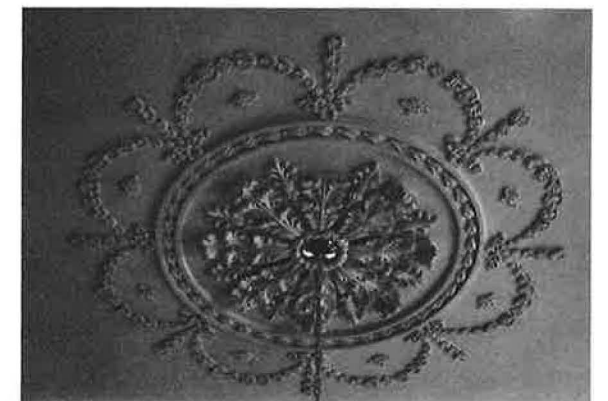
Ben Venue Slave Quarters, Rappahannock County



Hobson's Choice, Brunswick County



Magnolia Grange, Chesterfield County



Magnolia Grange, parlor ceiling medallion

OAK HILL, PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY: An old, familiar landmark, Oak Hill is probably the largest and finest of a group of 19th-century plantation residences erected along the Dan River in Pittsylvania County. The Federal-style house was built between 1823-25 for Samuel Hairston, the wealthiest of the Dan River planters and one of the largest slave and landholders in the Commonwealth. His residence stands as the most thoroughly documented work of James DeJarnett, a master builder of Southside Virginia.

MOUNTAIN VIEW, PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY: Mountain View is one of a number of fine houses built during Southside Virginia's antebellum agricultural boom. It was erected between 1840 and 1842 for Thomas Jones Smith in a relatively conservative Federal style. With its fine brickwork, symmetrical facades, and refined interior trim, it bears many of the hallmarks of the local master builder, James DeJarnett. On the grounds are remnants of extensive formal gardens.



Oak Hill, Pittsylvania County



Oak Hill, second-floor bedroom fireplace



Mountain View, Pittsylvania County

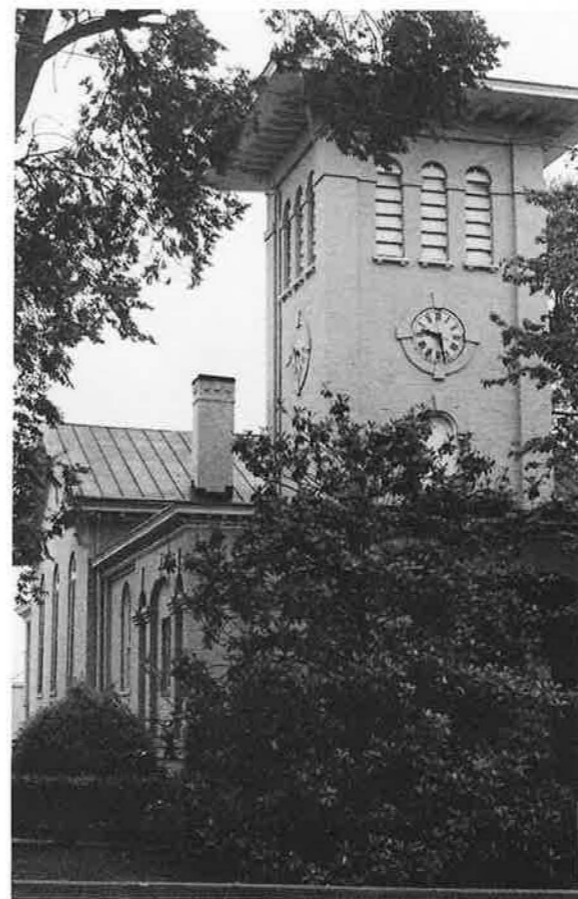
OLD CLERK'S OFFICE, PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY: The old county clerk's office, together with the restored debtor's jail, are reminders of the period 1754-1872 when this community was Prince Edward Court House. Built in 1855 by Guthrey and Thackston, the present structure was the third clerk's office. The edifice was built north of the early courthouse square in the 19th-century Roman Revival idiom originally popularized for courthouse design by Thomas Jefferson and his followers. Clerk of the Court at the time—and indeed from 1825-1870—was Branch Worsham, after whom the community was later named.



Old Clerk's Office, Prince Edward County

ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ORANGE COUNTY: The Orange County Courthouse marks a radical departure from traditional forms, and illustrates a public acceptance of the picturesque and exotic styles popular in late antebellum times. Designed by the Washington firm of Haskins and Alexander and erected in 1858-59, the building has all of the major characteristics of the Italian Villa style: deep-bracketed cornices, shallow-hipped roofs, and the inevitable square tower. The building was the fourth built for Orange County. It is complemented by its clerk's office, jail, and Confederate monument.

PETERSBURG OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT, PETERSBURG: This large district incorporates approximately 190 acres and 250 buildings of downtown Petersburg, one of Virginia's oldest cities, founded in 1733 by William Byrd. The district is significant for its diversity of residential, commercial, and industrial architecture. Of special interest is the rich collection of fine early, mid, and late 19th-century houses lining High Street, as well as its group of early worker cottages clustered in the southwest portion of the area. Industrial architecture is spread along the Appomattox River and includes railroad buildings, factories, tobacco warehouses, an ironworks, a luggage factory, and a variety of automotive buildings. Although it suffered fires, Civil War destruction, and commercial redevelopment, the district yet preserves one of the state's most notable assemblages of building types.



Orange County Courthouse, Orange



High Street, Petersburg Old Town Historic District



City Market, Petersburg Old Town Historic District

Mountain & Valley

BEVERLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT, STAUNTON: The Beverley Historic District takes in 150 buildings in some eleven blocks of Staunton's central business district. Although the area is part of the mid-18th-century settlement founded by William Beverley, its present image is a classic example of a Victorian main street. The district is compact and well-preserved. The dome of the Augusta County

Courthouse, the old YMCA clocktower, the observation tower of the Masonic building, and several church spires lend the district a rich and fanciful skyline. Virtually every phase of the region's 19th and early 20th-century stylistic development is to be found there. The buildings represent the growth of Staunton from an early mill settlement to one of the Shenandoah Valley's leading mercantile centers.



Glen Burnie, Winchester



Masonic Building, Beverley Historic District, Staunton



Edinburg Mill, Shenandoah County



Prospect Hill, Botetourt County

EDINGURG MILL, SHENANDOAH COUNTY: The three-story frame grist mill on Stony Creek in the town of Edinburg is a well-preserved example of the early agricultural industry of the Shenandoah Valley. Once part of a larger industrial complex, the mill is presently being adapted for use as a restaurant. Built ca. 1850 by the Grandstaff family and modernized at the turn of the century, the mill continued in use until July 1978, when it was rescued from possible demolition by its acquisition for adaptive reuse.

ERIN, WARREN COUNTY: Dating from 1848, Erin is a sophisticated example of a three-part Greek Revival country house. Its form and details closely follow illustrations published in contemporary builders' guide books such as Minard Lafever's *Modern Builder's Guide*, and Asher Benjamin's *The Practice of Architecture*. Dominated by an Ionic portico, the house was erected in 1848 for David Funsten, a local lawyer and politician.

GLEN BURNIE, WINCHESTER: Although within the city limits of Winchester, this Georgian-style residence retains its country ambiance. Built ca. 1794 by Robert Wood on land originally owned by James Wood, founding developer of Winchester, Glen Burnie has continued in the ownership of Wood's descendants through

the seventh generation. The present owner, Julian Wood Glass, Jr., undertook extensive renovation of the house and grounds after inheriting the property in 1959. The earliest portion of the house has notable interior woodwork.

PETER PAUL HOUSE, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY: This log dwelling near Dayton is one of a small group of Continental farmhouses surviving as relics of the heavy Swiss and German settlement in the Shenandoah Valley. Built between 1805 and 1815 by Paul on land purchased from the Harrison family, founders of nearby Harrisonburg, this central-chimney house is also one of the latest and farthest south of these European-derived houses.

PROSPECT HILL, BOTETOURT COUNTY: The late Federal-style farmhouse at Prospect Hill commands panoramic views in all directions, including the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, the historic town of Fincastle, and rolling Botetourt County farmland. Built ca. 1837-38, the house preserves an interior rich in original fancy painting and graining. The west parlor's stenciling is a decorative device rarely surviving in Virginia houses of the period. The exterior is characterized by a two-level portico, original flush boarding, and elaborate detailing.



Erin, Warren County

Commission Sponsors HABS Project

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission awarded a grant to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to assist in conducting a Historic American Buildings Survey recording project on Toddsbury, Roaring Springs, and the Gloucester Woman's Club. The three Gloucester County properties are important examples of 18th-century

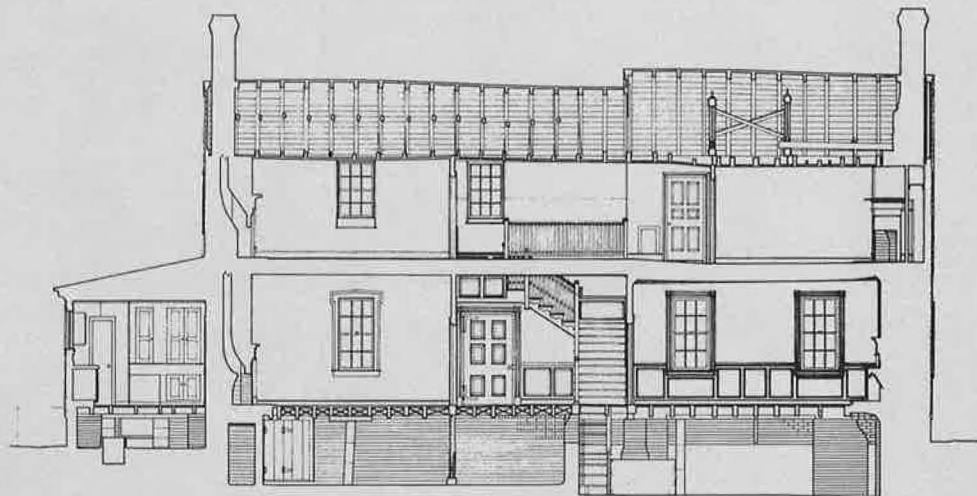
Tidewater architecture, and all three are protected through preservation easements held by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. The project is part of a continuing effort by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission to have all landmarks on which it holds easements recorded in the HABS format.

During this past summer the HABS team, consisting of four architectural students supervised by Patrick Burkhardt, prepared approximately 28 sheets of measured drawings on the three buildings. The drawings include plans, sections, elevations, and details. The team worked out of facilities provided by Colonial Williamsburg and were advised by Paul Buchanan, Director of Architectural Research for the foundation.

The drawings will be supplemented by complete photographic coverage of the buildings. Margaret Peters, VHLC research historian, has documented the properties and is writing their histories. The architectural analyses are being written by Marlene

Heck, VHLC architectural historian. When completed, the materials will be deposited in the HABS collection in the Library of Congress.

Toddsbury, owned by Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore, is known for its outstanding paneled woodwork. Roaring Springs, a quaint vernacular farmhouse also with fine paneling, was recently given to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities by Mr. Samuel Janney and Miss Emily Janney, who are life tenants. The Gloucester Woman's Club, a familiar landmark in the county seat, is a much-evolved structure and is believed to have been built as an ordinary. It has served as a clubhouse for the past sixty years.



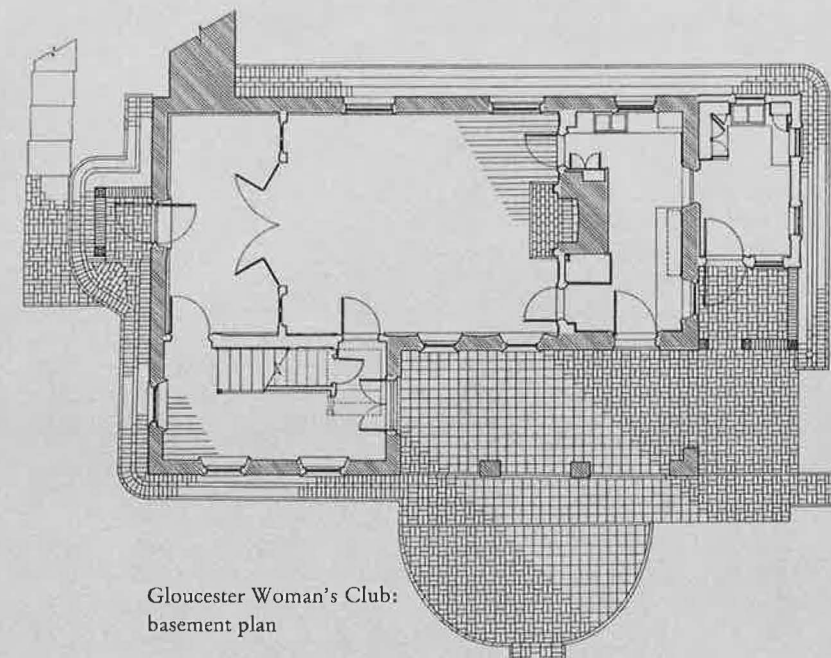
Roaring Springs: longitudinal section



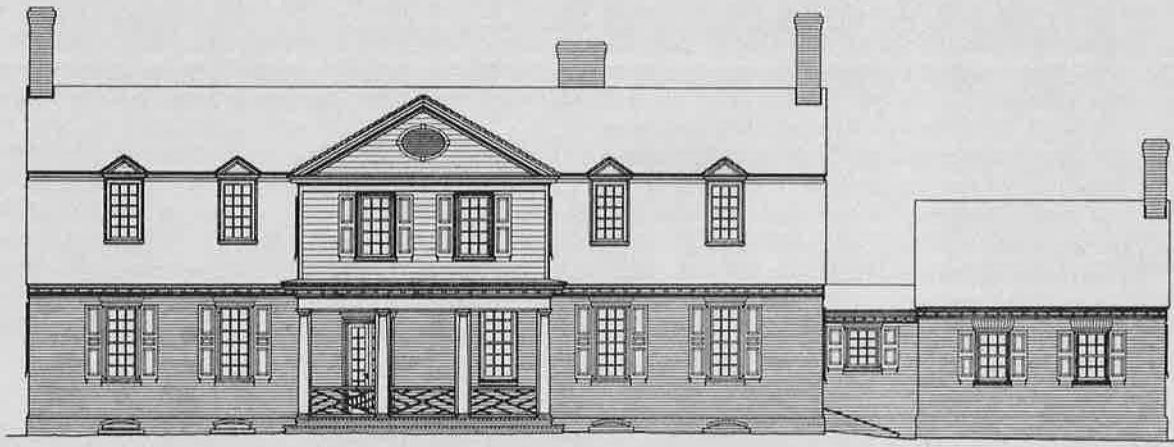
Gloucester Woman's Club: elevation, south front

Roaring Springs: south front

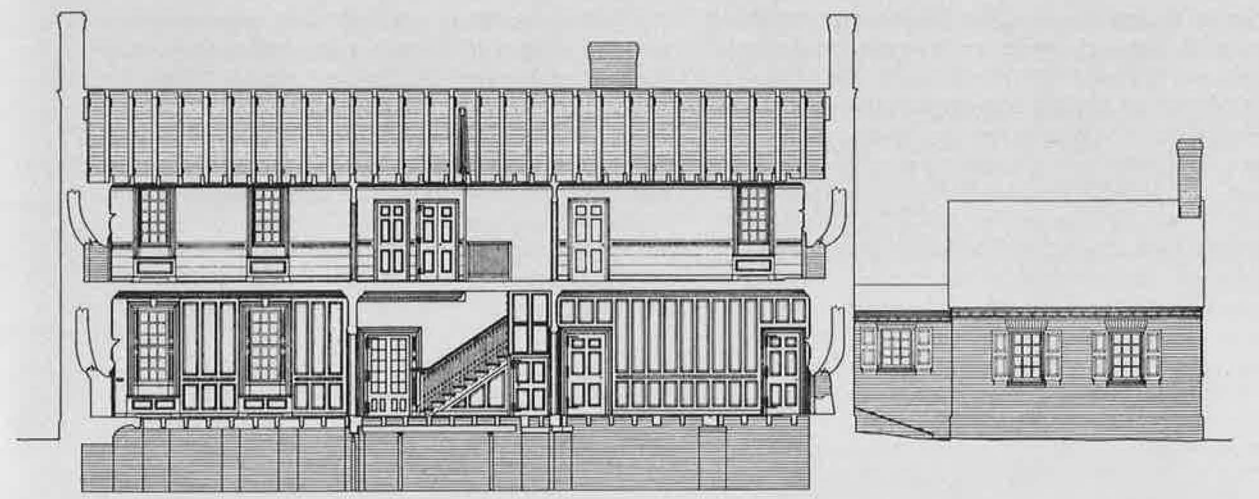
Gloucester Woman's Club: south front



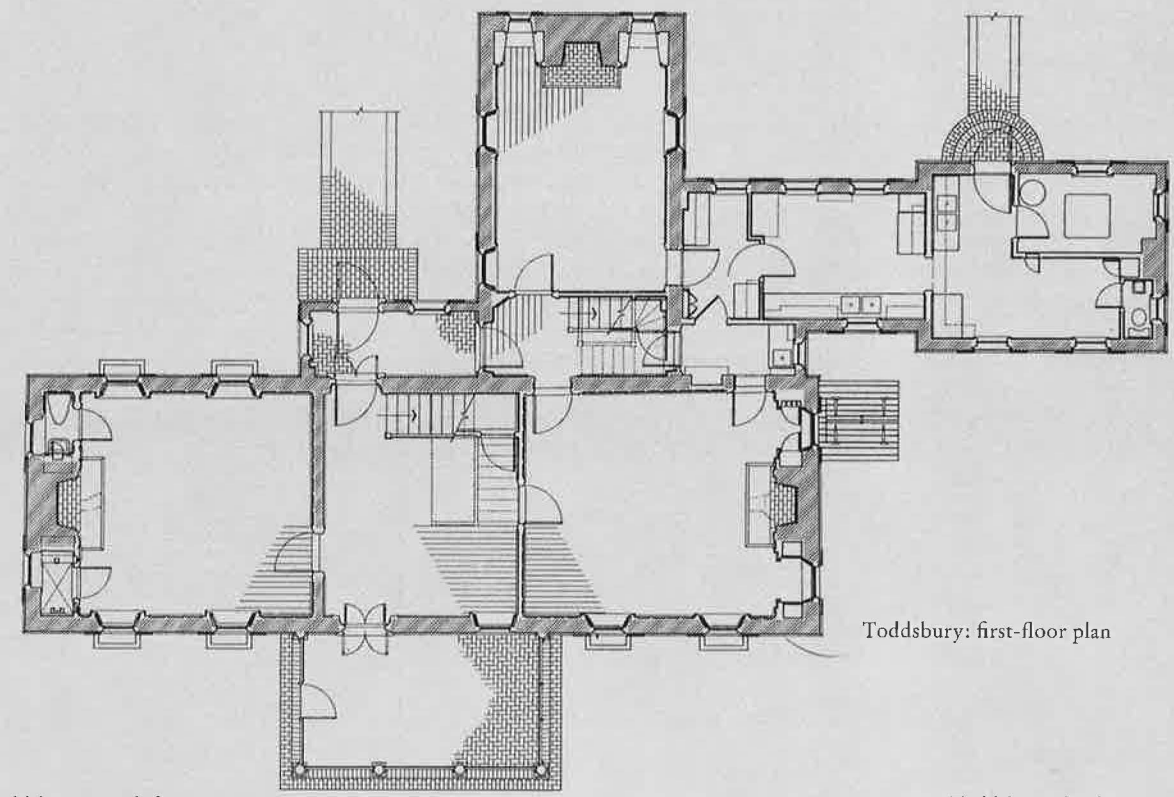
Gloucester Woman's Club:
basement plan



Toddsbury: elevation, south front



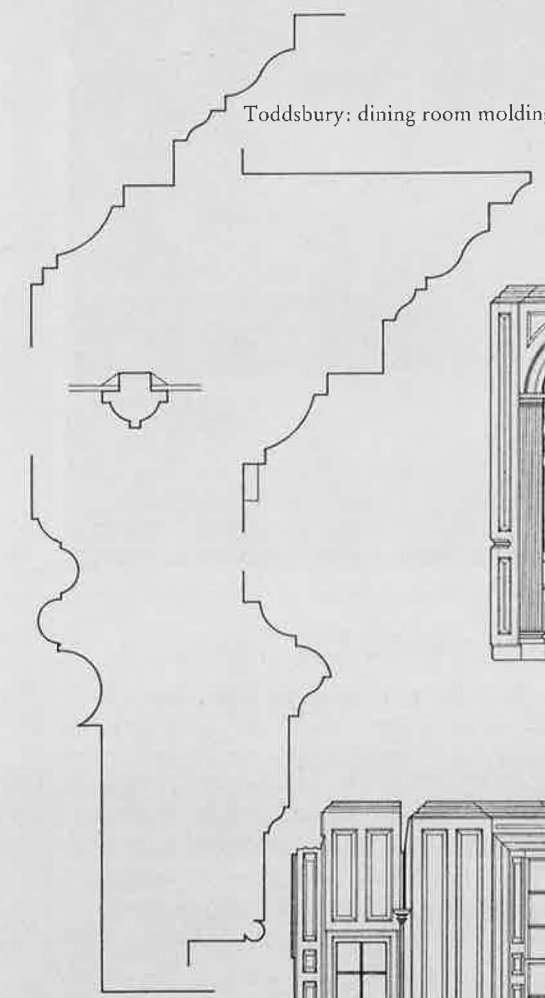
Toddsbury: longitudinal section



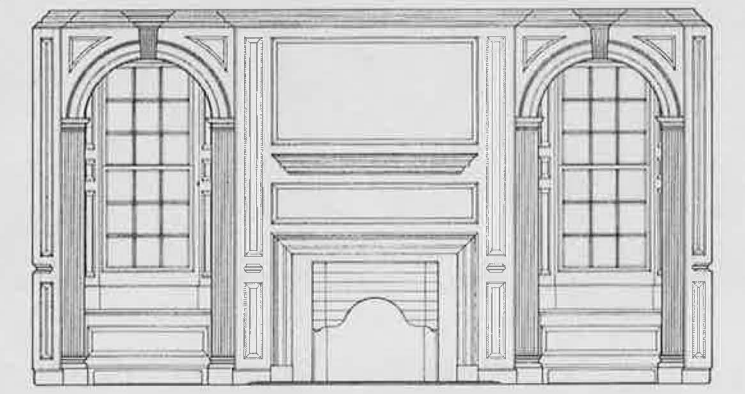
Toddsbury: first-floor plan

Toddsbury: south front

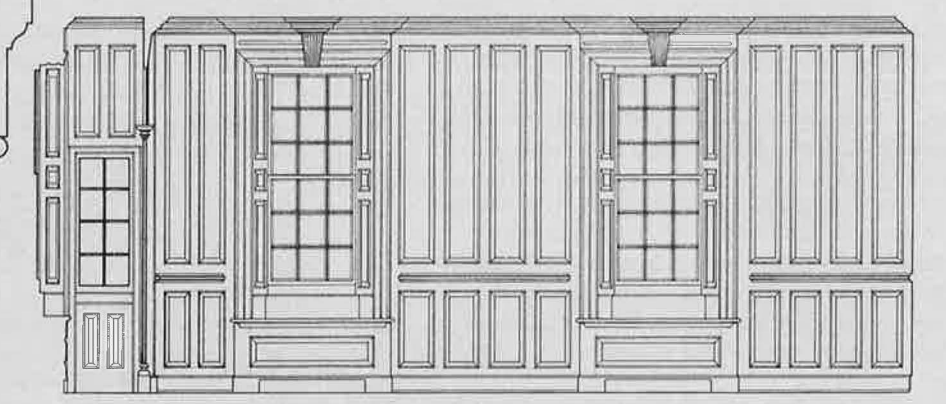
Toddsbury: land entrance



Toddsbury: dining room molding profiles



Toddsbury: dining room fireplace



Toddsbury: dining room paneling

Morson's Row Building Undergoing Restoration

The exterior of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission at 221 Governor Street is receiving a much-needed renovation under the auspices of the State's Division of Engineering and Buildings. Included in the renovation project is 219 Governor Street, the Commission's next-door neighbor, now occupied by the Department of Purchases and Supply. The architect for the project is James Scott Rawlings of Richmond; J. Kennon Perrin Co. of

Richmond is the contractor. The work involves stucco repair and replacement, sash and cornice repairs, and painting. These two buildings are among three Italianate houses comprising Morson's Row, erected in 1853 by James Marion Morson as rental properties. 219 and 221 were acquired by the state several years ago. 223 is still privately owned and is not being renovated.



Morson's Row, Richmond

New Employees at the VHLC and the VRCA

Marlene Heck has been selected as the architectural historian to replace Dell Upton, who resigned in July. Miss Heck received her B.A. in Modern European History at the University of Texas in 1973 and her Master of Architectural History from the University of Virginia in 1977. She formerly served as architectural historian for the Texas Historical Commission and as a lecturer in the school of architecture at Texas A&M University.

Clyde Vernon March, III was appointed in July to succeed Robert E. Swisher as the Commission's Environmental Officer. Mr. March received his B.A. from the University of Richmond in 1979. He served as an intern at the VHLC for several months prior to this selection for the position.

Archaeologist **E. Randolph Turner** became Director of Prehistoric Research in November, succeeding William P. Boyer, Jr. Dr. Turner com-

pleted his B.A. in Anthropology at the University of Virginia in 1970, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University in 1972 and 1976. Formerly he was the Research Center's Regional Preservation Officer at Emory and Henry College, where he was a visiting professor in prehistory.

Keith Bott has joined the VRCA staff as Prehistoric Archaeologist. He is a graduate of Drew University in Anthropology and English, has worked in cultural resource management, and is currently completing an MS in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ann Crossman has replaced Margaret Churchill as Review and Compliance Assistant and Librarian at the VRCA. She is a recent College of William and Mary graduate who moonlights as Games Mistress at Chowning's Tavern for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Recent Appointments

David Harrison of Hopewell has been appointed by Governor John Dalton for a second term on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. Mr. Harrison is the representative of the Virginia Historical Society.

Tucker Hill, as State Historic Preservation Officer, has appointed the following members of the State Review Board (the Board approves nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and reviews Federal acquisition and development grants):

Daniel P. Jordan, Assistant Chairman, Department of History, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Richard Guy Wilson, Chairman, Division of Architectural History, University of Virginia.

Jon K. Kukla, Head, Publications Branch, Virginia State Library.

William M. Kelso, Director of Archaeological Research, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation (Dr. Kelso succeeds Ivor Noël Hume, who resigned in June).

Photograph courtesy of Loudoun Times-Mirror



Right to Left: Governor and Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. W. Brown Morton, III of the Waterford Foundation, Calder Loth, VHLC Staff.

Governor and Mrs. Dalton Hold Reception for Easement Donors

Governor and Mrs. John Dalton honored the tenth anniversary of the signing of the first preservation easements under the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and Open Space Land Acts by holding a reception at the Executive Mansion September 23. The guests included donors of easements to both the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, as well as the agencies' commission and board members.

During the past decade the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission have accepted nearly 200 easements guaranteeing the permanent preservation of scenic open land and historic landmarks throughout the state. The generosity of the easement donors has

enabled valuable properties to be protected while keeping them on the tax rolls, in production, and in private hands. The easement program is designed to assure the integrity of important properties while avoiding the staggering burden of public acquisition and maintenance. Well-known places under easement with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission include Westover and Berkeley in Charles City County, Mount Airy in Richmond County, and the Kent-Valentine House, headquarters of the Garden Club of Virginia, in Richmond.

Further information on the program can be obtained by writing Calder Loth, easement coordinator, at the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

Recent activities on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation are providing an example of how professional archaeologists and the public can work cooperatively and effectively to utilize and preserve Virginia's cultural resources. Common concern for research, interpretation and conservation has inspired a mutually beneficial relationship between the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.

The approximately 1150-acre Pamunkey Indian Reservation is located about 25 miles northeast of Richmond, in King William County, on a peninsula formed by the meanderings of the Pamunkey

River, one of two major sources of the York. Now a community of fifty-six people, the Pamunkey have an early documented history as one of the most powerful tribes in the Powhatan Confederacy. At the time of European contact in 1606 John Smith recorded a large Indian village, which may have been the main settlement of the Tribe, at the confluence of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers. As white settlers gradually encroached upon Indian land during the 17th century, the Pamunkey eventually resettled further up river in an area that was formally secured as a reservation by a treaty with the General Assembly of Virginia in 1677.



Early Virginia Indians eating maize, from Thomas Harriot's *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*

Although the Pamunkey have retained a close community on their reservation through three centuries, most knowledge of their aboriginal and early historic culture was gradually lost. In recent generations the population of the reservation has fluctuated, but generally has remained small as families and individuals have left in search of better economic opportunities.

The Pamunkey, presently under the leadership of Chief Tecumseh Deerfoot Cook, have become aware of the need to improve economic conditions on the reservation and reinforce the identity of the tribe in Virginia. They have also recognized that through proper development their own cultural

resources can be utilized to fill these needs. Past conditions have often served to disassociate Native Americans from their cultural heritage. The tribe has therefore not felt qualified to conduct resource management and interpretation programs on its own, but has sought assistance from professional archaeologists, who have played an integral role in the tribe's development programs involving cultural resources. In recent years archaeologists, (including the staff of the VRCA) and the tribe have worked together to systematically investigate the archaeological resources of the reservation, to develop a museum of Pamunkey history, to establish a Pamunkey Research Center in experimental ar-

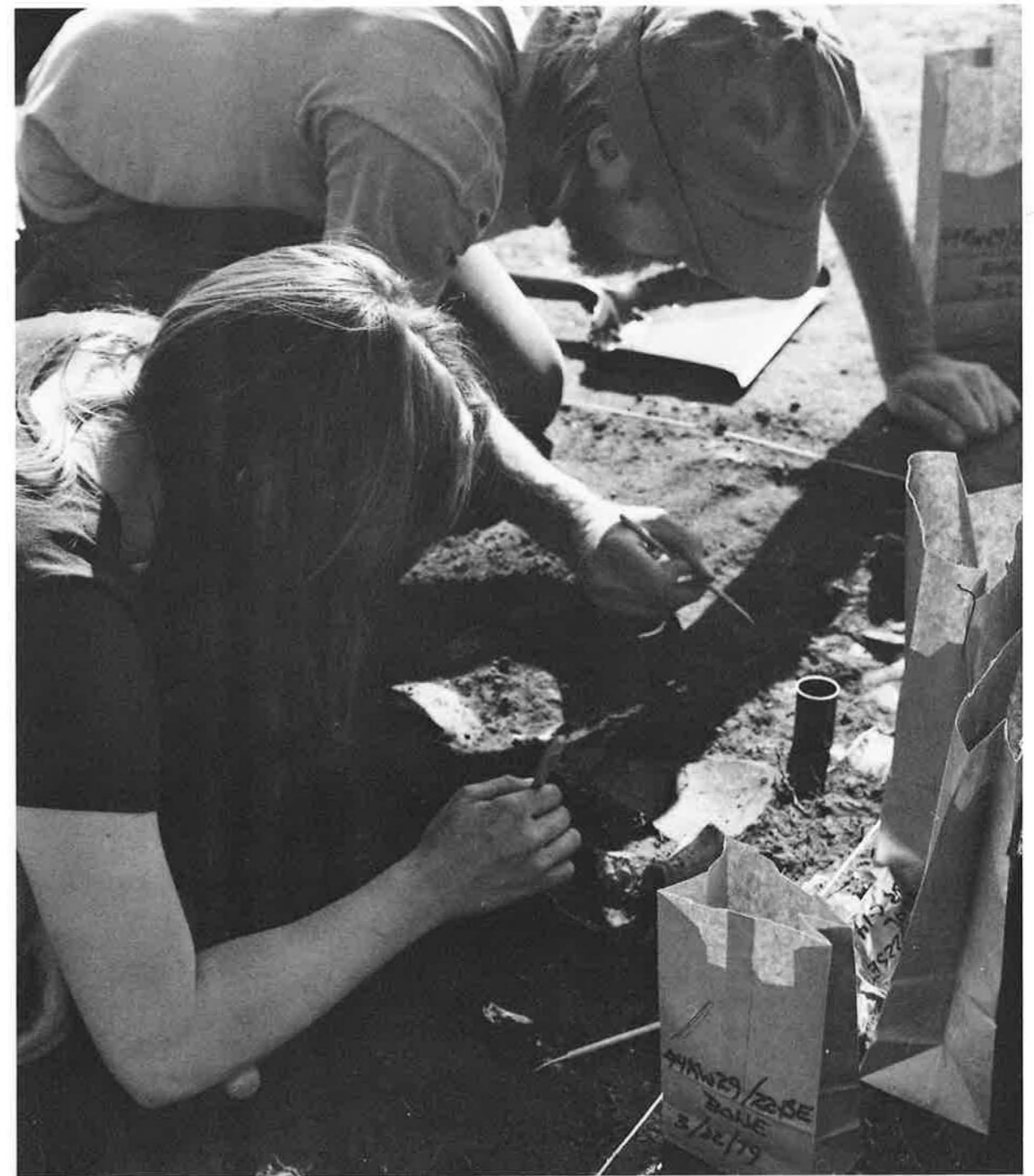
chaeology, and to revitalize the tribal ceramic industry.

Initially the tribe approached the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology concerning nomination of the Indian reservation to the National Register of Historic Places, which would enable it to apply for federal funds to interpret its archaeological resources. The National Register nomination is presently being prepared.

In January 1979 the VRCA conducted a walking survey of the reservation in order to inventory Pamunkey resources and to substantiate the nomination. Fourteen archaeological sites representing human occupation from the Archaic period (ca. 8000 B.C.) to the present were recorded. Local

residents assisted by sharing information about private collections of artifacts found in the area.

The results of the survey made the tribe more acutely aware of the archaeological potential of its reservation. When it was discovered in March 1979 that a portion of a site recorded during the survey as 44Kw29, the Bush Site, was being severely disturbed by plowing, the tribe requested that the VRCA return and investigate. This led to a twelve-day excavation of a trash pit and drainage trench on the site, both dating from the first half of the 19th century. Archaeologists were assisted in work by residents of the reservation, volunteers from the Pamunkey Research Center, and several other interested amateurs.

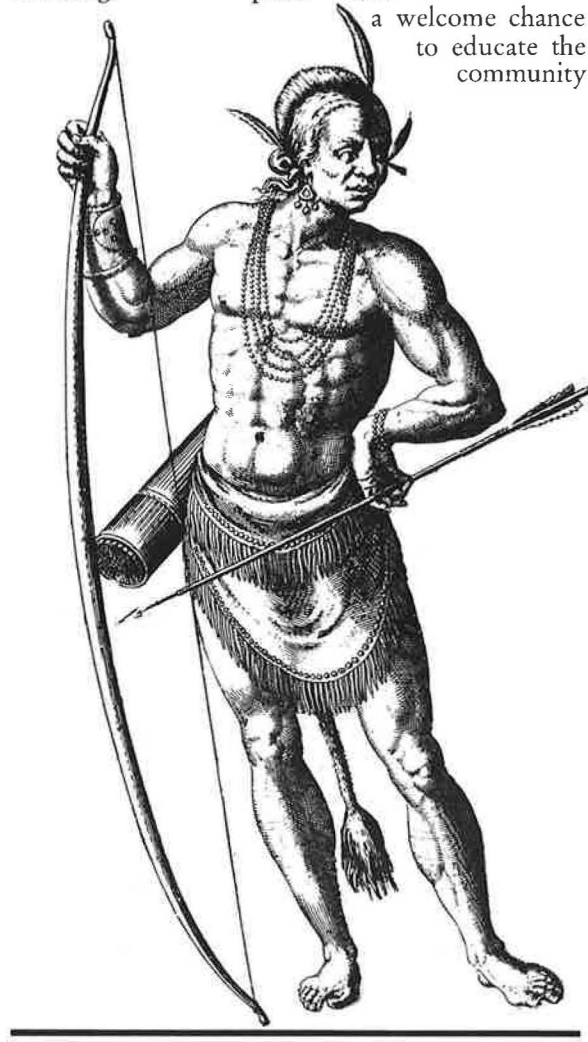


Delicate tools are used to retrieve fragile faunal remains at the Bush site

The excavation provided important information concerning life on the reservation during a relatively undocumented period of its history. Recovered artifacts suggested the degree to which the Pamunkey had become acculturated to a Euro-American lifestyle by the mid-19th century, and the two features yielded an extensive collection of Colono-Indian ceramics (a ware influenced by European shapes but manufactured by aboriginal methods) which is valuable to future research.

The Bush Site excavation gave the Pamunkey an opportunity to see and participate in the archaeological research process. For the VRCA it was

a welcome chance to educate the community



such federal agencies as the Economic Development Administration and the Office of Housing and Urban Development, and gifts from amateur archaeologists and collectors in Virginia are making the museum possible. On display when it opens in the spring of 1980 will be artifacts from many sources, including the Bush Site, the collections of individual Pamunkey, and the VRCA, which will loan some 100 artifacts long term from its Tidewater collections. The VRCA has provided help in interpreting the archaeological record for the museum and has actively supported the museum's educational ambitions so that the public can view a portion of the Commonwealth's archaeological collection in a culture history context. At present no other state museum describes native American



Katie Southward applies an old texturing technique to her pot. Native American Training Program. Photo by Roy E. Clark



Two grandsons of Pamunkey Chief Tecumseh Deerfoot Cook help sift plowzone soil

in proper excavation procedures and care of archaeological resources. The tribe felt strongly that the results of archaeological research on its culture should be disseminated to the public rather than prepared for professional use alone, and to that end has been developing at its Cultural Center a museum which will display Pamunkey history from the Paleo-Indian period to the present. Thus preserved, their history will not be lost, as in the past, through neglect or changing ways.

The museum has been coordinated by Warren Cook, son of Chief Cook, and designed by Errett Callahan, a PhD candidate at Catholic University, and his assistant, Jeff Kalin. Tribal funds, donations from reservation residents, financial support from

cultural in such depth.

Working closely with the museum is the Pamunkey Research Center, an organization directed by Errett Callahan which pursues research and conducts experiments into Eastern Late Woodland culture (ca. 900 A.M.-1600 A.D.), with an emphasis on the Powhatan Confederacy. The Research Center has constructed an Indian village representative of the Late Woodland period on land adjacent to the Cultural Center, employing student labor during summer field schools in Living Archaeology. The Pamunkey Research Center has been a channel through which the Pamunkey have had opportunity to experiment in traditional pre-

historic technologies such as shelter construction, farming and flintknapping. Research conducted there has aided prehistoric archaeologists throughout the world in the interpretation of cultural remains.

In addition to its educational function, the Pamunkey Museum is broadening economic opportunities on the reservation. At present Comprehensive Employment Training Act Title II and VI (CETA) funds are supporting the training of Pamunkey Indians in museum construction, maintenance, interpretation and management. In the future tourism possibly may encourage such ancillary developments as food services and lodging.

The Pamunkey are also currently rejuvenating their ceramic industry. Ceramic production has

Governor's Employment Training Council and funded by a CETA Title III grant, has emphasized development of a ceramic style more reflective of prehistoric Pamunkey traditions, but allowing for individual expression and artistic development. The staff of the VRCA, drawing on information obtained from the state's archaeological collections, has advised the Pamunkey potters on the type of ceramics produced by their prehistoric ancestors, with the result that the potters are now producing replica pots representative of the entire range of the known archaeological record in the mid-Atlantic coastal area. These types will be displayed in the museum and, along with more contemporary styles, will be available for purchase at a Pamunkey co-operative sales shop which is planned to handle



Volunteers learn mapping skills from VRCA archaeologists

been a continuous tradition in Pamunkey culture since the beginning of the Woodland period (ca. 1000 B.C.). A major stylistic change from prehistoric ceramic wares took place in the 17th century when Colono-Indian ware began to be produced by Indians for local use and trade with the colonists. Later Pamunkey pottery production declined toward the end of the 19th century as the railroad brought competitive wares into the market. As a counter measure the State Department of Education sponsored a ceramic program on the reservation in the 1930s, introducing a polychrome ceramic based on southwestern Indian styles which is still being produced by Pamunkey potters.

The current pottery program, sponsored by the

all phases of ceramic production and will be located at the Cultural Center.

The cooperative relationship between the Pamunkey Indian Tribe and the VRCA has been based on the willingness of both groups to communicate their needs and coordinate their efforts, with the result that the cultural resources of the Pamunkey Reservation are being intelligently and effectively utilized in accordance with the goals of each. The relationship stands as a model for other professional and public groups engaged in productive exploration and interpretation of cultural resources.

by Mary Ellen Norrissey
Prehistoric Lab Technician



Although Virginia's archaeological resources are largely invisible, their potential is great for yielding new, unique information about our past. Since early 1978 the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology has recognized the need to nominate archaeological sites to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places as the ultimate means of preserving Virginia's archaeological resources. Toward that end an increased effort has been made to research and identify significant archaeological sites within the Commonwealth.

As a result of the current interpretation of the federal tax laws, it has become increasingly difficult for archaeological sites, particularly those involving large acreages, to attain National Register status. Each site submitted in nomination must be carefully researched and tested by an intensive archaeological field survey. This work spatially delimits and assesses the integrity of the archaeological remains and substantiates the boundaries of the acreage nominated.

Ten historic and prehistoric archaeological sites surveyed and nominated by the VRCA have been accepted for inclusion in the state and federal registers. The historic sites span the 18th century and are scattered across Virginia from Tidewater to the mountains.

The first of these, College Landing on College Creek, a once-navigable tidal waterway feeding into the James River, was one of two port facilities laid out in 1699 to serve Williamsburg, the colonial capital. A conduit for the capital's domestic and foreign trade with various parts of the British colonial world, College Landing, also called Princess Anne Port, flourished as a small but active community. A tavern, brewery, cart and flatboat livery, storage warehouses and other businesses related to merchant shipping grew up around College Landing's official tobacco inspection warehouse, which was established there by a 1705 Act of Assembly. A ferry plied across the James to Hog Island, and flatboats bearing tobacco, lumber and other domestic produce arrived from points further up the river. During the Revolutionary War the Landing was a debarkation point for troops and military supplies.

Today, at low tide, the wooden footings of the tobacco warehouse protruding above the surface of College Creek are the only visible remnant of a once-bustling trade center. When plans were made to extend a road through the area in 1976, the VRCA conducted an archaeological survey on those parts of College Landing directly affected by construction. Architectural and artifactual data were collected from several 18th-century structures. Although some of the archaeological remains were destroyed, information that otherwise would have vanished was retrieved and the remainder of the site was preserved.

In 1977, at the request of two county historical societies, VRCA archaeologists became involved in locating two early 18th-century Virginia frontier forts, Germanna and Christanna. Built more than two hundred miles apart, both forts were constructed in 1714 by Governor Alexander Spotswood as parts of a scheme for defending the lengthy, sparsely settled Virginia frontier against hostile Indians.

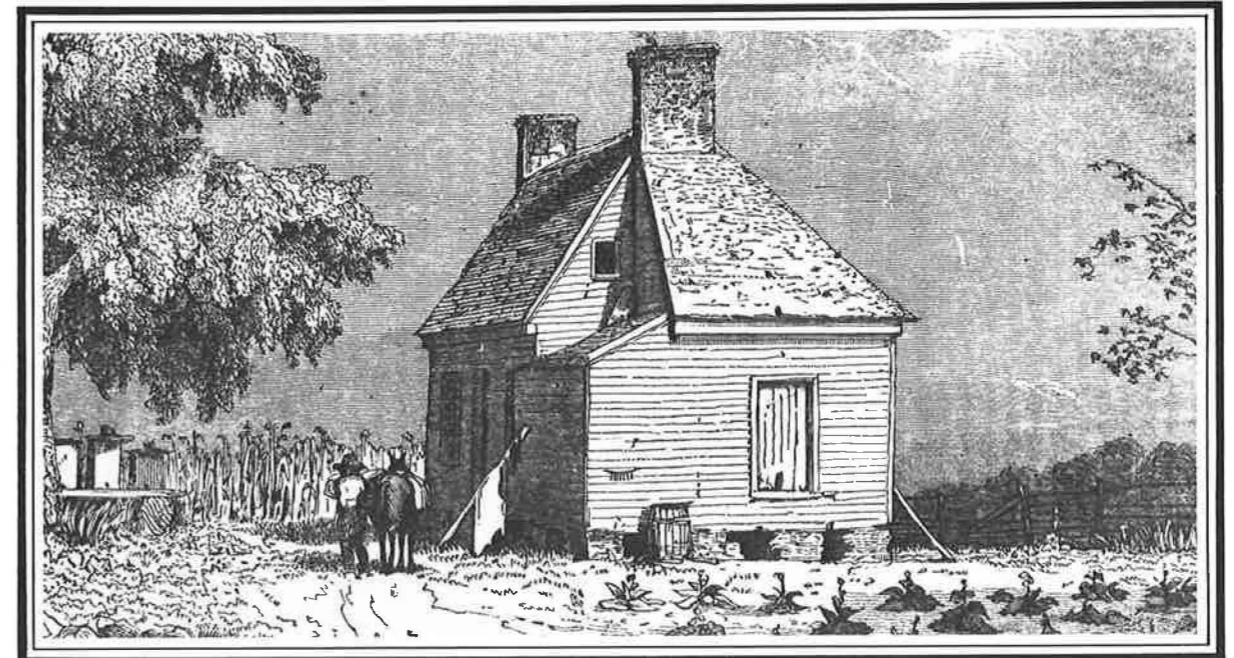
Spotswood chose to settle twelve German immigrant families on his Orange County property on the Rapidan River to be a deterrent to warlike Indian tribes to the north. He also employed the Germans as indentured servants in his nearby iron mines. He constructed for them a pentagonal palisade within which they lived with their livestock. A contemporary visitor described these settlers as living "very miserably" in "ruinous tenements." While the Germans departed from Germanna as soon as they had fulfilled their indentures, Spotswood promoted settlement in the area by building himself a mansion, called by his contemporaries an "Enchanted Castle."

It was a search for the Enchanted Castle that brought VRCA archaeologists to Orange County in 1977 to conduct an archaeological survey. The Orange County Historical Society and the owner of the property presumed to contain the Spotswood mansion wanted to locate the site in order to preserve it. Limited testing produced abundant architectural evidence that a large brick mansion and line of outbuildings had indeed existed at the site. Fragments of fine Chinese porcelain matching

the description contained in Spotswood's inventory further identified the mansion's remains and attested that Spotswood succeeded in duplicating the elegance and sophistication of Tidewater plantation life in a remote frontier environment.

At the close of 1977 the Brunswick County Historical Society requested that the VRCA locate the site of Fort Christanna, the second military outpost established by Governor Spotswood. Placing the fort at a bend of the Meherrin River, Spotswood hoped to settle Tributary Indian tribes, who affirmed their loyalty to the British by paying an annual tribute of furs and skins to the colonial government. Spotswood set up a school for Indian children at Fort Christanna, and invited the Great Men of each tribe to enroll two of their children as

VRCA archaeologists discovered the site of Fort Christianna through archival research that emphasized a study of historical maps. They conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey, excavating test pits in several high-probability areas. These tests positively identified sections of the Fort Christianna palisade line within 150 feet of the Colonial Dames' marker. Additional testing at the site a half mile from the fort, where the historical record alleged Spotswood's personal residence to be, revealed a domestic site dating to the first quarter of the 18th century, presumably Spotswood's mansion. The Sapony Indian village site also has been identified tentatively. The three main components of the Fort Christianna Archaeological District—fort, residence, and Indian



An 1845 engraving depicts the birthplace of President James Monroe

students. Spotswood's correspondence reveals that he viewed the Indian children as hostages, and that he intended the Tributary Indians to serve as a barrier between outlying British settlers and the hostile Indian tribes to the south and west. By establishing the Virginia Indian Company's trade monopoly at Fort Christianna, Spotswood hoped to eliminate the occasional bloody disputes between Indians and frontiersmen over trade. Again, Spotswood built himself a personal residence nearby.

The Sapony Indians responded to Spotswood's plan by establishing a village near the fort. Their language, way of life, and the architecture of their village are detailed in the historical record by contemporary visitors to Fort Christianna. But Spotswood's plan quickly lost the support of the colonial government, and the official sanction of the settlement was short-lived. In 1924 the National Society of Colonial Dames placed a monument where Fort Christianna was traditionally thought to be. Its location, however, had become a matter for dispute in recent years.

village—present a unique opportunity for archaeological research into the relatively unstudied Contact Period.

The Looney Mill Creek Site in Botetourt County, consisting of prehistoric and historic components, contains archaeological remains of Archaic Indian occupation, ca. 6000-2000 B.C., and evidence of more intensive Indian habitation during the Late Woodland Period. Frontiersman Robert Looney moved into the area in 1742, built his homestead, constructed a mill, and operated a ferry across the creek, which was on a main route westward. During the French and Indian War Looney fortified his cabin, a structure which became known as Fort Looney and which served as a refuge to settlers and travelers alike during outbreaks of Indian hostility.

Three other archaeological complexes having a military association have achieved Register status. One, Fort Chiswell in Wythe County, was the site of Colonel William Byrd, III's encampment during the winter of 1760-61 when his men occupied the farmstead of frontiersman Alexander Sayers.

Byrd's men reinforced Sayers's cabin as a fort and built a losenge-shaped powder magazine adjacent to it. After the troops abandoned the property, James McGavock, a consummate entrepreneur who capitalized on westward migration through Fort Chiswell, built an ordinary, trading post, mill, and blacksmith and carpenter shops there adjacent to the public road.

Fort Chiswell served as the major distribution point for the lead supply furnished American troops in southwestern Virginia and northern North Carolina during the Revolutionary War. At the close of the war Tory trials were held at Fort Chiswell, which had become the site of the Montgomery County Courthouse. Commercial



Excavating an 18th-century structure at College Landing

activity flourished at Fort Chiswell until the first part of the 19th century.

When the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation planned an interchange of Interstates 77 and 81 at Fort Chiswell, the VRCA initiated in-depth archaeological and historical research that resulted in the excavation of the Sayers cabin-fort and smokehouse, Byrd's powder magazine, and James McGavock's home, all of which would be impacted by construction. Other archaeological features were identified and the remainder of the site was preserved intact.

In September 1775 the Fredericksburg Gun Manufactory was established on the edge of that city to manufacture and repair small arms for the regiments of numerous Virginia counties during the Revolution. Workmen were expected to make their own tools and machinery and to produce firearms from rough materials—iron, steel, and walnut

planking. In addition, old arms were restored to a usable condition. A former Tory mill on the property was adapted for grinding off gun barrels, bayonets, and ramrods. A stone powder magazine of the same plan and dimensions as the Williamsburg magazine was built to receive public arms and ammunition from other manufacturers.

Artisans, white apprentices and negro laborers lived at the gun manufactory together, "taking their meals at one big table as a large family," according to factory director Charles Dick. The workmen were furnished osnaburg trousers and work-shirts, coarse stockings and sturdy shoes, and they grew their own food in a large garden.

By May 1777 the gunnery was producing twenty

muskets a week, complete with bayonets. In addition to supplying arms to the state regiments, the Fredericksburg Gun Manufactory provided the Marquis de Lafayette's men with 600 stand of arms and 50,000 cartridges. The gunnery continued to function until 1783. An archaeological survey of the Fredericksburg Gun Manufactory established the site's dimensions and revealed a portion of one building.

Another military industrial complex dating to the Revolutionary War, the Chickahominy Shipyard lies in upper James City County on the Chickahominy River. Once the official shipyard of the Virginia State Navy, the only navy established and maintained by an American colony, this archaeological site consists of nautical and dry land components and has substantial historical documentation.

Constructed in Spring 1777, the Chickahominy Shipyard produced and outfitted or repaired such

vessels of the American fleet as the *Thetis*, the brig *Jefferson*, and the galleys *Manley* and *Safe Guard*. Portable bateaux, or shallow-bottomed boats, designed by General George Washington for use in the upper James River were built in the Chickahominy Shipyard.

Ship's carpenters and blacksmiths, joiners and clerks worked at the shipyard under the supervision of a master builder and shipyard superintendent. According to Naval Board records, they were furnished room, board, and clothing, and were exempted from military service. The Chickahominy Shipyard contributed greatly to the naval build-up preceding the battle of Yorktown in October 1781, and played an integral role in the



Exposed foundation of Governor Spotswood's Enchanted Castle at Germanna

outcome of the Revolutionary War. It was destroyed by British forces on April 22, 1781 at 4 p.m.

Archaeological remains consisting of land sites and at least two submerged shipwrecks lie within the area protected by the Register. Wooden boat slips where colonial ships once were launched can be seen still in the shallows along the shoreline.

The homes of two 18th-century men, one of national reputation and the other of local importance, recently attained Register status. Early in 1976 VRCA archaeologists were asked to substantiate whether remains of an 18th-century structure in a Westmoreland County park represented, as tradition supposed, the birthplace and boyhood home of James Monroe, fifth President of the United States. The combined efforts of archaeological and historical research provided a convincing case that it was, for the 18'6" x 57' structure

excavated matched an 1845 engraving of Monroe's birthplace.

James Monroe's father, Spence Monroe, was a cabinetmaker, or joiner, by trade. The 1774 inventory made at his death was consistent with the kinds of artifactual material found, which included fragments of carpenter's tools. The inventory indicated that the Monroe family had modest means and lived on a small, working plantation. Spence Monroe's major investment lay in land, livestock and his ten slaves, rather than in decorative items for his home. Excavation of the main house and other buildings at the Monroe site yielded mostly utilitarian objects, supporting the historical record and illustrating an early example of American social mobility.

The need to protect the 18th-century Bryan Manor Plantation site near Williamsburg led to its placement on the State and National Registers. The Bryan mansion, which has an architecturally unique foundation of bog iron bonded together with shell mortar, was the home of Frederick Bryan, a York County Deputy Sheriff, prominent Williamsburg citizen, and wealthy appointive official.

Since York County records are essentially intact, the potential exists for relating Frederick Bryan's inventory to the archaeological remains at the site. The Bryan tract was part of the land Frederick Bryan inherited from his father. He accumulated much of his wealth during the last ten years of his life, 1761-71, through his public duties and by officiating at estate settlements. He served on the vestry of Bruton Parish Church with such prominent Virginians as Mann Page, Benjamin Waller and Lewis Burwell. His considerable income was increased by the selling of produce from his various landholdings and the leasing of his land and slaves.

In addition to the historic sites previously mentioned, a Smyth County prehistoric site, Fox Farm, has been named to both Registers. Used sporadically during the Late Archaic period, Fox Farm was an Indian village occupied intensively during the late Woodland period. The well-preserved faunal and floral remains at Fox Farm have considerable research potential regarding the subsistence strategies employed by the inhabitants of the narrow flood plain valleys of southwestern Virginia. The presence of human remains interred with their heads to the south, rather than to the east, as was customary, contrasts sharply with other prehistoric sites in southwest Virginia.

The preservation of the archaeological record is crucial. Uncorrupted information about Virginia's past can enlarge our perceptions of that portion of the human population who left no written record. Archaeological research can also reveal details within a past culture too ordinary to have been recorded. The VRCA's efforts to propose new sites for the State and Federal Registers continues. An 18th-century poorhouse, two colonial towns, the birthplace of a Virginia Governor, a Civil War fort and two major prehistoric sites number among the archaeological sites currently being investigated.

—by Martha McCartney
Research Specialist

Maritime Grant for Yorktown Shipwrecks



The VHLC's underwater archaeological project on the Yorktown Shipwrecks has received a maritime grant of \$239,315 from the Department of the Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The award is one of 84 maritime grants-in-aid totaling \$5 million appropriated from the nation's \$60 million historic preservation budget for 1979.

The VHLC must match the grant dollar for dollar, and is actively seeking funds from the General Assembly and from private sources. Nautical Archaeologist John Broadwater, Director of the Yorktown Shipwrecks project, says the money will be used to construct a protective cofferdam around one shipwreck and to build a pier from shore that will enable the public to view the excavation site.

The Yorktown project began in 1976, and since 1978 has proceeded with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and other institutions. To date, the remains of eight 18th-century vessels from Cornwallis's doomed fleet have been identified, and many artifacts in excellent condition have been recovered.



A leather powder flask retrieved from a shipwreck of Cornwallis' Cave near Yorktown.

Volume II of the National Register of Historic Places Published

The hardbound edition of The National Register of Historic Places, Volume II, is now available as a companion to the 1976 Bicentennial edition of the National Register. Volume II lists properties entered on the National Register from January 1, 1975 through December 1, 1976, and completes the Bicentennial edition. The book has 700 pages and 560 illustrations. It is divided into sections by state or territory, with each containing a map, illustrations or photographs, and brief descriptions of the properties and their significance. Illustrations in the Virginia section include photographs of the Phoenix Bridge, Botetourt County; Sunny Bank, Shack Mountain, Albemarle County; Flowerdew Hundred, Prince George County; Westover Glebe, Charles City County; Totomoi, Hanover County; Wilton, Richmond; Meems Bottom Covered Bridge, Shenandoah County; the Harvey House, Radford; and a drawing of the Appomattox Iron Works in Petersburg.

Copies may be ordered for \$14.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Stock No. 024-005-00747-4)

Publications Available From VHLC

The following publications from the Technical Preservation Services Division of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service are available free by writing to VHLC:

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: One section of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, with accompanying guidelines. Intended to assist local officials and individual property owners in formulating rehabilitation plans for the preservation of historic neighborhoods, commercial areas and buildings. 12 pages.

Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings: Leaflet. Explains in layman's terms the Federal tax incentives for owners who rehabilitate income-producing historic structures. Includes outline of certification process.

Preservation Briefs: No. 1: The Cleaning and Waterproof Coating of Masonry Buildings. 4 pages.

Preservation Briefs: No. 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Brick Buildings. 8 pages.

Preservation Briefs: No. 3: Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings. 8 pages.

Preservation Briefs: No. 4: Roofing in Historic Buildings. 8 pages.

Preservation Briefs: No. 6: Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings. 8 pages.

Preservation Briefs: No. 7: The Preservation of Historic Glazed Architectural Terra-Cotta. 8 pages.

Notes on Virginia

MORSON'S ROW



Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Morson's Row

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