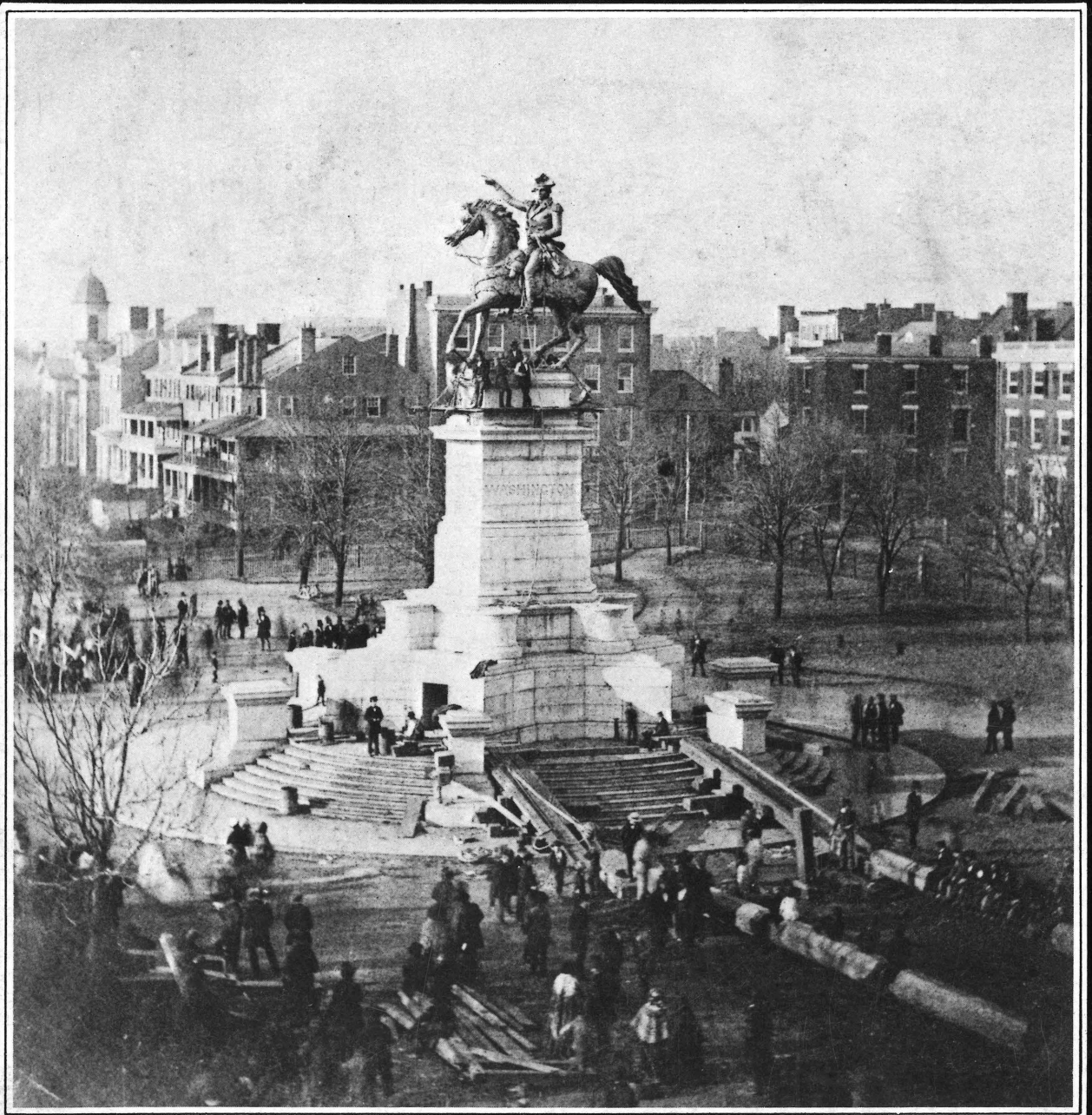


# Notes on Virginia

Number 23

Published by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Spring 1983



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### Published by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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*Notes* is edited by Robert A. Carter, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission;  
and designed and prepared for publication by  
Douglas W. Price, Office of Graphic Communications, Virginia Department of General Services.  
All photographs are from the VHLC archives, except where noted.

## Our Cover

The picture on the cover, dated January, 1858, is the earliest known photograph showing Crawford's equestrian statue of Washington in place at Capitol Square. Cast in bronze from Crawford's plaster model at the Royal Bavarian Foundry at Munich, the eighteen-ton statue has just been hoisted onto its marble pedestal and anchored into place under the supervision of Captain Charles Dimmock, Engineer. The men on the scaffolding have ascended to their lookout above the approving spectators by way of an interior spiral staircase, also of Crawford's design. The unknown photographer apparently climbed to the roof of the Capitol in order to capture this image of the monument, looking west toward the intersection of 9th and Grace Streets.

Clearly visible in the far left background is St. Peter's Church, erected in 1834 as the first cathedral of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Directly behind the Washington Monument is the St. Clair Hotel complex, a 19th-century hostelry demolished in 1902 to make way for the Hotel Richmond, which now serves as the Commonwealth's Ninth Street Office Building. The three-story, five-bay, brick structure standing on the present site of the General Assembly Building was the residence of Mann S. Valentine, father of the founder of the Valentine Museum.

Earlier that winter, a team of some 500 men and boys pulled the crated bronze figure to the Square all the way from the city dock at 17th Street, mounting the steep hill by 9th Street to Broad, then east to 10th and south to the monument site. Only the statues of Henry and Jefferson were in place at the official dedication on February 22, 1858. Mason arrived in June, 1858. Crawford's Marshall was stored in Europe during the Civil War and put in place, with Randolph Rogers' bronze figures of Nelson and Lewis, in June, 1867, when the iron fence was also erected. In August, 1868, the monument was completed by the addition of allegorical figures beneath each of the secondary statues.

Photograph from the Library of Congress, courtesy of the Valentine Museum. See article on pp. 18-19.



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## Virginia's Coat of Arms

Beginning with this issue of *Notes*, the title page will be illustrated with Virginia's official coat of arms, formally granted to the Commonwealth by Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Virginia in July, 1976. The design of the coat of arms is based on that used by the Virginia Company of London in the early 17th century.



## Archaeology Staff Moves to Yorktown

Careful readers of the title page will have noted a new address for the Commission's Research Center for Archaeology. Last September the Commission's archaeologists left the campus of the College of William and Mary and moved into newly renovated space at the State's Victory Center in Yorktown.

In addition to office space, the Victory Center quarters provide ample room to store artifact collections and to operate a laboratory. The Victory Center also provides an opportunity to mount archaeological exhibits for the touring public: currently there is an exhibit on the York River Shipwreck Project on display.

The Commission looks forward to a continuing association with the Victory Center.



# Building the Alliance

*To Meet The Need For Better Communication*

Information. We as a society seem increasingly choked with more and more information about virtually every subject to the point that we can hardly swallow all that is heaped upon us, much less digest it. In the midst of this unending proliferation of knowledge we must come to grips with the problem of distilling all this information and getting it into the hands and minds of those who need it. While much has already been written about how our society processes information, we need to discuss how we as preservationists in Virginia deal with the information at our command.

Many people active in various preservation organizations in Virginia share the belief that we need to improve greatly the mechanisms by which we share vital information among ourselves and by which we seek to make our needs known to those in a position to provide assistance. The feeling persists in various quarters that, with a greater flow of information among ourselves, we will come to a greater appreciation for the ties that bind us together, we will be better able to help one another, and we will be more effective in pressing our cause with those in positions of influence. We will also come to understand that even within the historic preservation community there are divergent interests and different approaches to the various problems and opportunities that confront us.

With an eye toward addressing this need for greater communication, the University of Virginia's School of Architecture has enlisted the support of the Landmarks Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in planning the School's tenth annual preservation conference scheduled for February 25-26, 1983 in Charlottesville. Titled **Building the Alliance**, the conference has been

designed to foster the sharing of ideas among local preservation organizations. In addition, the major goal of the conference will be the establishment of a statewide association of preservation organizations with the ongoing objectives of providing assistance for its members and creating a strong voice for preservation in Virginia among the councils of government and the board rooms of private enterprise.

It should be noted that representatives of several local preservation organizations have been among those planning for the conference and the subsequent statewide alliance. Their enthusiasm for the alliance has been a driving force in establishing the conference format and in seeking the creation of a statewide association. The alliance's success will depend in large measure upon the continuing enthusiasm and support of those organizations that comprise its membership. It cannot be simply a tool of the Landmarks Commission, or the National Trust, or the School of Architecture, for then it merely clutters our existence and serves very little useful purpose.

For my part, I am enthusiastic about the conference, and I see great potential for the alliance. For me the alliance represents an independent partner: willing and able to assist the Commission in its work, but just as willing and able to provide information and opinion to the Commission to help determine what that work should be. I take seriously the notion that we in government are public servants, so I welcome the advent of the alliance as a great opportunity for the Commission and a very important segment of its public to become better acquainted.

H. Bryan Mitchell  
Executive Director

# The Virginia Landmarks Register

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission is pleased to note the following additions made to the Virginia Landmarks Register since the summer of 1982. As the state's official list of properties worthy of preservation, the Register embraces buildings, structures, sites, and districts prominently identified with Virginia history and culture from prehistoric times to the present. Since the General Assembly established the Register in 1966, recognition of more than 1,000 places has directed public attention to Virginia's extraordinary legacy from the past and greatly encouraged the preservation efforts of state, local, and private agencies and groups. All of the properties here listed have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

A cloth-bound copy of the Virginia Landmarks Register (published in 1976) 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 600 properties and is profusely illustrated.

## Tidewater

### Commonwealth Club Historic District, Richmond:

The area around West Franklin Street's 400 Block retains one of downtown Richmond's best preserved clusters of turn-of-the-century upper class townhouses, having as its focal point the architecturally luxuriant Commonwealth Club, designed in the 1890s by Carrere and Hastings of New York. Although the block was once part of an unbroken progression of fine residences extending from Capitol Square to Monument Avenue, it is now a detached enclave in the midst of modern high-rise development preserving the historic fabric of what was once Richmond's most fashionable street. The stylistic diversity of the turn of the century is well illustrated here with houses in the Italianate, Romanesque, Colonial Revival, and Classical styles, all executed with a remarkable consistency of scale and materials.

**Holly Lawn, Richmond:** Situated among clusters of mature oak and holly trees in what formerly was a turn-of-the-century streetcar suburb of Richmond, Holly Lawn is a superb Queen Anne-style residence that is representative of the best suburban architecture of its period. Built in 1901 for Andrew Biene Blair, a prominent Richmond insurance agent, the house is more closely associated with Dr. Ennon G. Williams, a figure of national importance in the public health movement of the Progressive era. Under Williams' leadership as the Commonwealth's first Commissioner of Public Health, Virginia's health board ranked among the first such departments in the country to apply scientific knowledge to the improvement of public hygiene by a system of prevention as well as cure. The house now serves as the headquarters of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs.

**Lower Southwark Church Ruins, Surry County:** These ruins belong to Virginia's important group of Colonial Anglican churches, an outstanding collection of some fifty 17th- and 18th-century church buildings architecturally symbolizing the established religion of the Virginia

colony. Before it was gutted by fire in 1868, the building followed the typical format of the rectilinear church, having a single doorway on the west end and five bays on either side, including a side entrance. The surviving walls, with their beautiful Flemish-bond brickwork, stand today as an exceedingly romantic ruin, one of the state's few consciously preserved Colonial ruins.

**Oakland Farm Archaeological Sites Multiple Resource Area, Newport News:** The Oakland Farm Archaeological Sites Multiple Resource Area in Newport News includes three significant, distinct and non-contiguous archaeological sites within a tract of land proposed for development as the Oakland Industrial Park. Surviving intact are the archaeological remains of prehistoric occupation dating to the Early-to-Middle Woodland periods; the Queen Hith Plantation Complex, occupied by the Harwood family from ca. 1632 until after the Revolutionary War; and one Confederate earthworks, the southern terminus of a band of fortifications constructed by General J. B. Magruder in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign. The sites are to be preserved *in situ* by the Hampton and Newport News Regional Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and are expected to yield significant research data on prehistoric Early-to-Middle Woodland periods, as well as on the settlement and cultural development of the James River Basin through the 18th century.

**Planter's National Bank, Richmond:** Planter's National Bank is a highly original interpretation of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture designed in 1893 by Charles H. Read, Jr. A native Virginia architect, Read contributed several other significant buildings to Richmond's cityscape, most notably the Union Theological Seminary Quadrangle. Among the first of the grand bank designs to be built in Richmond, Planter's exemplifies the archetypal Romanesque themes of solidity, permanence, and fortress-like protection. It survives as the last remaining specimen of the Romanesque idiom in Richmond's city center.



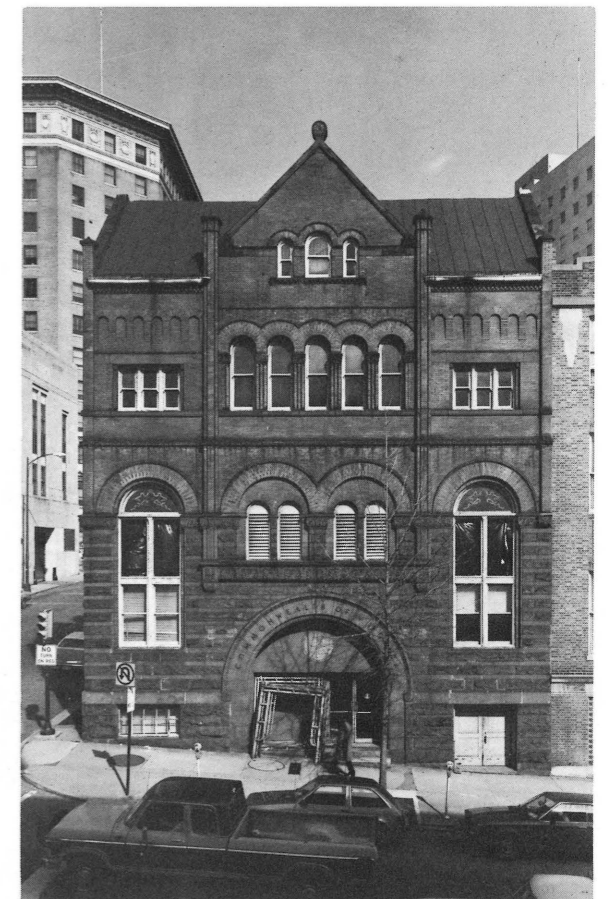
Commonwealth Club, Richmond  
Richard Cheek



Holly Lawn, Richmond



Lower Southwark Church Ruins, Surry County



Planter's National Bank, Richmond

**St. Alban's Hall, Richmond:** Construction of St. Alban's Hall began two years after central Richmond burned at the end of the Civil War and marked the beginning of the city's revival. The prototype for later Masonic buildings in Richmond, the Hall consisted of shops and a concert hall, as well as Masonic meeting rooms, and served as an important focus of post-war Richmond's social and political life. The building shows the influence of the Renaissance Revival or Tuscan Palazzo mode widely used in the urban North in the 1850s and '60s but rarely found in the war-torn South.



St. Alban's Hall, Richmond

**Shipwreck Archaeological Site, Newport News:** 44NN73, a mid-19th century shipwreck situated in the James River at Newport News, Virginia, is believed to be the wreck of the USS *Cumberland*, sunk on March 8, 1864, as a result of extensive damage sustained during an encounter with the ironclad CSS *Virginia* (Merrimac). Scientific archaeological excavation at 44NN73 should positively identify this shipwreck and determine whether it is the USS *Cumberland*, a National War Grave. It should also yield new research data on Civil War-era naval architecture.

**Union Theological Seminary Quadrangle, Richmond:** Begun in 1896, the quadrangle at Union Theological Seminary is an unusually distinguished collection of High Victorian Gothic, Late Gothic Revival and Queen Anne architecture, all rendered in dark red brick and all basically English in character. The original layout of the complex and the majority of the buildings were designed by the talented, but little-known Richmond architect, Charles H. Read, Jr. Later buildings were designed by the Richmond firms of Charles K. Bryant and Baskervill and Lambert, the latter firm completing the quadrangle in 1921 with Schaffler Hall, a delicately rich Late Gothic Revival building. Founded in 1812 at Hampden-Sydney College as the Presbyterian Synod of Virginia's School of Theology, the Seminary moved to Richmond in 1896 after receiving a gift of a twelve-acre site on the city's north side from the Richmond industrialist and developer Lewis Ginter. Since its relocation, the Seminary has played a leading role in religious education in the region. With its fine buildings impressively sited around a long open area, the Seminary's quadrangle remains a remarkably handsome and coherent expression of the dignity and style accorded academic buildings at the turn of the century.



Union Theological Seminary Quadrangle, Richmond

## Northern Virginia

**Germantown Archaeological Sites, Fauquier County:** The earliest known German domestic site in Virginia is Germantown, where Alexander Spotswood settled German immigrants whom he had brought to Virginia in 1714 to mine and refine iron ore. The Weaver House and adjacent Germantown Tavern sites are the only identified archaeological remains of the settlement. The ca. 1721 house site, together with the remains of the ca. 1780 tavern, should yield interesting information about the home life of this early immigrant ethnic group.

**Oakley, Fauquier County:** Oakley, which sits grandly amid the rolling hills of Northern Virginia's scenic countryside, is a sophisticated and well-preserved example of an Italianate country house. Completed in 1857, the house retains a picturesque romanticism that is symbolic of the lifestyle of its builder, Richard Henry Dulany. Dulany was



Oakley, Fauquier County

founder of the Upperville Colt and Horse Show, the oldest horse show in the country and now the highlight of equestrian life in the Commonwealth's most prestigious hunt country.

**Waverly, Leesburg, Loudoun County:** Built ca. 1890 as the retirement home of Robert T. Hempstone, a wealthy Baltimore businessman, Waverly is a symbol of personal prosperity rarely expressed with such ostentation in the Victorian architecture of Northern Virginia. At a time when the economy of Loudoun County still suffered from the devastating effects of the Civil War, large dwellings such as Waverly were reserved for individuals who had acquired their wealth elsewhere. An opulent example of a Victorian residence displaying features of both the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles, the house was built by the Leesburg firm of John Norris and Sons.



Waverly, Leesburg

## Piedmont

**Big Meadows Site, Madison County:** The Big Meadows Site, one of the most carefully explored sites in the Shenandoah National Park and the entire Blue Ridge province, has revealed a formerly unknown florescence of Indian habitation in the Big Meadows area between ca. 2500 B.C. and 800 A.D. Yielding the Park's oldest example of prehistoric art and the oldest evidence of a possible dwelling in the Blue Ridge, the site has also produced large quantities of locally and regionally imported raw materials, indicating the extent to which its prehistoric occupants exploited a large and varied territory on a seasonal basis through local exchange networks. The population peak reached in Late Archaic-Early Woodland times as typified by this site contrasts with the sparse use of the mountains by Late Woodland peoples (ca. 800-1600 A.D.).

**Cliff Kill Site, Madison County:** This site in the Shenandoah National Park is the only known example of a cliff kill site in Virginia. Despite the absence of faunal remains due to unfavorable soil conditions, analysis of the lithic assemblage supports the interpretation of the site as a kill site of mainly Middle to Late Archaic date (ca. 4000-1500 B.C.) with a late Woodland component. The probable interrelationship between the Cliff Kill site and identified sites on top of Big Meadows renders it essential to an understanding of the full range of activities characteristic of Archaic peoples in the Blue Ridge.

**Edgehill, Albemarle County:** Beautifully sited among the rolling hills of eastern Albemarle County, in view of Monticello, Edgehill was originally the home of Thomas Jefferson Randolph, the favorite grandson of Thomas Jefferson to whom Jefferson bequeathed his business and personal papers. The stately though conservative brick house was built in 1828 and is attributed on the basis of style and workmanship to the University of Virginia builders William B. Phillips and Malcolm F. Crawford. Although the house was gutted by fire in 1916, the exterior preserves its original appearance and the interior has been sympathetically rebuilt. The house today is the nucleus of one of Albemarle County's great country estates.



Edgehill, Albemarle County

**Federal Hill, Campbell County:** Federal Hill, a tripartite Palladian-type house, is historically significant as the residence of James Steptoe, the second clerk of Bedford County and lifelong friend of Thomas Jefferson. Because Jefferson's Bedford County retreat, Poplar Forest, was located only a few miles from Federal Hill, and Jefferson visited with Steptoe whenever he was in the area, it may have been Jefferson's guiding architectural influence that led Steptoe to employ a Palladian-derived plan. Such a plan was favored by Jefferson in his first designs for Monticello and continued to be advocated by him for the residences of friends and associates. Still standing adjacent to the dwelling is the second clerk's office of Bedford County, used by Steptoe throughout his long public service.

**Geddes, Amherst County:** The oldest portion of this interesting example of Piedmont vernacular architecture was built ca. 1762 for Hugh Rose, the third son of Anglican clergyman and diarist Robert Rose, to whom the house is traditionally attributed. A militia colonel who represented Amherst County both in the field and in the General Assembly during the Revolution, Hugh Rose is best remembered as the friend of Thomas Jefferson who sheltered Jefferson's family after the British raid on Charlottesville in 1781. The unusual form of the house, created by the early 19th-century addition of the hall and two west rooms, was the work of Rose descendants, who have continued to own the Geddes property to the present.

**The Gentle Site, Madison County:** One of the most productive sites, and the largest Woodland site in the Shenandoah National Park, the Gentle site raises several tantalizing questions concerning its relationship to well-known late Woodland sites in the Piedmont and its place in the life of the late Woodland peoples of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Sites such as this one might well have been connected with large scale fire hunts, trading, and raiding expeditions regularly conducted by the large Piedmont

horticultural village peoples along this cultural frontier. By raising the question of the identity of the Blue Ridge as a frontier zone in late Woodland times, the site also provides a theoretical link to early European settlement of the mountains by various ethnic groups.

**Mirador, Albemarle County:** The beautiful Albemarle County estate, Mirador, was the childhood home of the late Vicountess Astor, formerly Nancy Witcher Langhorne, the first woman member of Parliament. Lady Astor, who in later life would return frequently to Mirador and always maintain great pride in her Virginia origins, moved with her family to the estate in 1892 at the age of twelve. She lived there until she moved to England upon her marriage to Waldorf Astor in 1906. Also associated with Lady Astor's beautiful sister Irene, the famed prototype of illustrator Charles Dana Gibson's fashionable "Gibson Girl" of the 1890s, the present Georgian Revival mansion is largely the product of an extensive remodeling undertaken for members of the Langhorne family in the 1920s by New York architect William Adams Delano, who transformed a refined Federal-style plantation house into one of Virginia's most gracious country homes of the period.

**Prospect Hill, Spotsylvania County:** Associated with the Holladay family since its construction in 1806, Prospect Hill survives as one of Spotsylvania's largest and best-preserved early 19th-century plantation dwellings. The undisturbed condition of both the building's massive yet restrained exterior and its plain but elegant Federal woodwork makes Prospect Hill a good example of the type of spacious but unpretentious center-hall-plan house favored by the more prosperous Virginia planters of the period. The plantation was the scene of original owner Waller Holladay's experiments with crop rotation and fertilization as well as the center of his activities as a leading citizen of the area and public servant of the state.



Federal Hill, Campbell County



Mirador, Albemarle County



Geddes, Amherst County



Prospect Hill, Spotsylvania County

**Robertson Mountain Site, Madison County:** One of only two sites in the Shenandoah National Park to provide clear evidence of vertical stratification, Robertson Mountain was occupied for the entire span of the Archaic period (6000 B.C. to as late as 800 A.D.), making it a valuable record of major cultural and environmental changes in the Blue Ridge. Scientific excavation of the elevated site may illuminate the impact of rainfall/snowfall and temperature variation on the timing of seasonal food gathering activities in the highland zone. Situated in one of the most botanically unaltered sections of the Park, the site is a striking visual reminder of the habitat in which the first inhabitants of the mountains flourished for thousands of years.

**Rocklands, Orange County:** Occupying a long, narrow valley situated between the town of Gordonsville and the historic estates of Montpelier and Frascati, Rocklands boasts a grand Georgian Revival mansion set in beautifully landscaped grounds that were once the theatre of considerable Civil War activity. The present mansion was erected between 1905-07 for Richmonder Thomas Atkinson on the site of the mid-19th-century residence of Richard Burton Haxall of the noted Richmond milling family. Its architect has not been determined, although William Lawrence Bottomley was responsible for an extensive remodeling undertaken in the 1930s.

**Rosedale, Lynchburg:** Rosedale encompasses several related structures of significance in the historical and architectural development of the Bedford/Campbell County section of Piedmont Virginia. The oldest structure, the Christopher Johnson Cottage, was built ca. 1767 and is one of the few remaining from the mid-18th-century Quaker migration from eastern Virginia to what was then the colony's frontier. The adjacent mansion, built ca. 1838 for the first president of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, is one of the earliest houses in the area to display Greek Revival details obviously copied from mid-19th-century architectural handbooks. With the nearby remains

of an 18th-century mill, the numerous subsidiary farm buildings surrounding the two houses and its hilly, forested terrain, the Rosedale property presents the rare survival of a significant and picturesque rural ensemble on the fringe of encroaching urban development.

**Shady Grove, Campbell County:** Built in 1825 by Paulina Cabell Henry on land inherited from her father, Dr. George Cabell of Point of Honor, Lynchburg, Shady Grove is significant as an example of the interpretation of highly sophisticated and academic architectural embellishments by country craftsmen. It appears that Mrs. Henry was attempting at Shady Grove to duplicate the richness of detailing found in her childhood home, Point of Honor. The resulting interior work, the product of an unidentified artisan, is naive in its execution, possessing a charm and vitality not found in more academic counterparts.

**Tubal Furnace Archaeological Site, Spotsylvania County:** The Tubal Furnace Archaeological Site contains the remains of the earliest archaeologically identified iron furnace in Virginia. Constructed ca. 1717 under the direction of Alexander Spotswood, the furnace was operated with the labor of skilled Negro slaves, a pioneering enterprise in the use of slave labor in technological industry that was continued by Spotswood's descendants for two generations. Archaeological excavation of this industrial complex could yield unique data on early 18th-century iron manufacturing technology.

**J.W. Wood Building, Lynchburg:** The J.W. Wood Building is the largest and best preserved of the few pre-Civil War commercial structures remaining in Lynchburg. Its cast-iron shopfront is the sole survivor of its type in the city. Located in a now-underused section of downtown, the building is one of the few visual reminders of the city's tremendous commercial activity of the 1850s, the decade in which Lynchburg was declared by the United States Census to be the second richest city in the country on a per-capita basis.



Rocklands, Orange County



Shady Grove, Campbell County



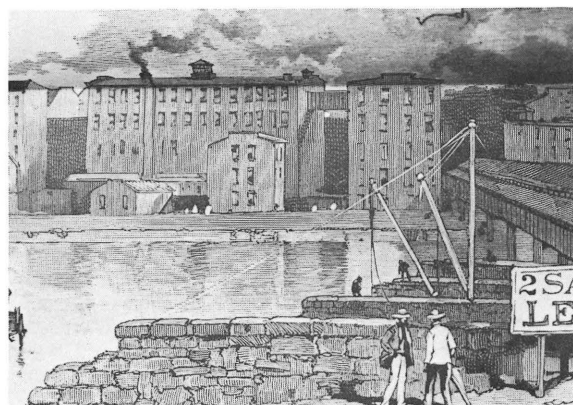
Rosedale, Lynchburg



J. W. Wood Building, Lynchburg

## Southside

**Dan River, Inc., Danville:** The Riverside Division buildings of Dan River, Inc. represent several stages in the century-long development of one of America's major textile companies, including the firm's first cotton mill at the corner of Main and Bridge streets in downtown Danville. The complex consists of seven cotton mills, a flour mill, two masonry dams, warehouses, a dye house, a machine shop, a research building, the remains of a power canal, and a number of support buildings such as boiler houses and coal bunkers. The major architectural styles range from the relatively small, brick vernacular mills and out-buildings of the "cotton factory fever" of the 1880s and '90s, to the massive concrete modernist structures of the 1920s, with some minor additions from later years.



Riverside Mill #1, as it appeared in Harper's in 1886

**Greenville County Courthouse Complex, Emporia:** Greenville County's Courthouse Square, which has served as the location of the county's seat of government since 1787, contains three buildings of architectural interest: the present courthouse, built in 1831 by Daniel Lynch as Jeffersonian-school, three-part, Palladian type structure; the excellently documented Clerk's Office, built by the Southern Fireproof Co. in 1894 after the plans of Reuben Sherriff; and the former Greenville Bank Building of 1900, now the county administrator's office. The bank building contains an extraordinary locally produced interior of decorative stamped sheet metal. The square was the scene of military action in the Civil War when General Wade Hampton undertook to defend the railroad bridge across the Meherrin, General Lee's link to Southern supply sources.



Greenville County Courthouse, Emporia

## Valley & Mountain

**Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton:** One of Staunton's most conspicuous landmarks, the Augusta County Courthouse stands on the site of all of the county's courthouses since the first one was built in 1745. Its imposing architectural design represents the prominent local architect T. J. Collins' interpretation of the florid Classicism popular at the turn of the century. The building functions as the symbol of local law and civil authority, and as the center of political activity in the tradition of Virginia's county courthouses.

**Augusta Military Academy, Augusta County:** Founded by Confederate veteran and state delegate Charles Summerville Roller in 1879, Augusta Military Academy is the oldest military preparatory school in the Commonwealth. The dominant architectural feature of the complex is the imposing Main Barracks, designed by T. J. Collins and Sons of Staunton in a battlemented Gothic style, and completed in 1915. The prototype of Collins'



Augusta County Courthouse, Staunton

design is Alexander Jackson Davis' Main Barracks at Virginia Military Institute. In the wake of World War I and General John J. Pershing's report to Congress in 1920 recommending the early military training of American youth, the Academy formed the first Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in the nation and subsequently achieved an international reputation for excellence in the field of secondary military education.

**Bessemer Archaeological Site, Botetourt County:** The Bessemer Archaeological Site near the community of Bessemer in Botetourt County contains features dating to the Late Woodland Period (A.D. 800-1600) of Indian habitation that represent a northern expansion of the Dan River culture of the central Piedmont into western Virginia. Further archaeological work at the site should yield new data on Late Woodland settlement patterns, community organization, subsistence, and cultural interactions in the region. Enhancing the significance of the site are well defined remains of a Late Woodland rectangular long-house, the only structure of this type yet identified in western Virginia.

**Bethel Green, Augusta County:** The house built by the contractor Jonathan Brown for James Bumgardner, a prosperous Augusta County farmer and distiller, is a rare document of mid-19th-century taste in architecture and interior decoration, virtually undisturbed since its completion in 1857. Although the basic house is architecturally conservative with its straightforward double-pile plan, the elaborate Gothic-style porches, fancy chimney stacks, scrolled lattice, and Italianate bracketed cornice make the house a stylish amalgam of contemporary architectural modes. Of exceptional interest is the Victorian interior, especially the parlors which preserve their original wallpaper, curtains, carpeting, furniture, and other embellishments.



Bessemer Archaeological Site, Botetourt County



Augusta Military Academy, Augusta County



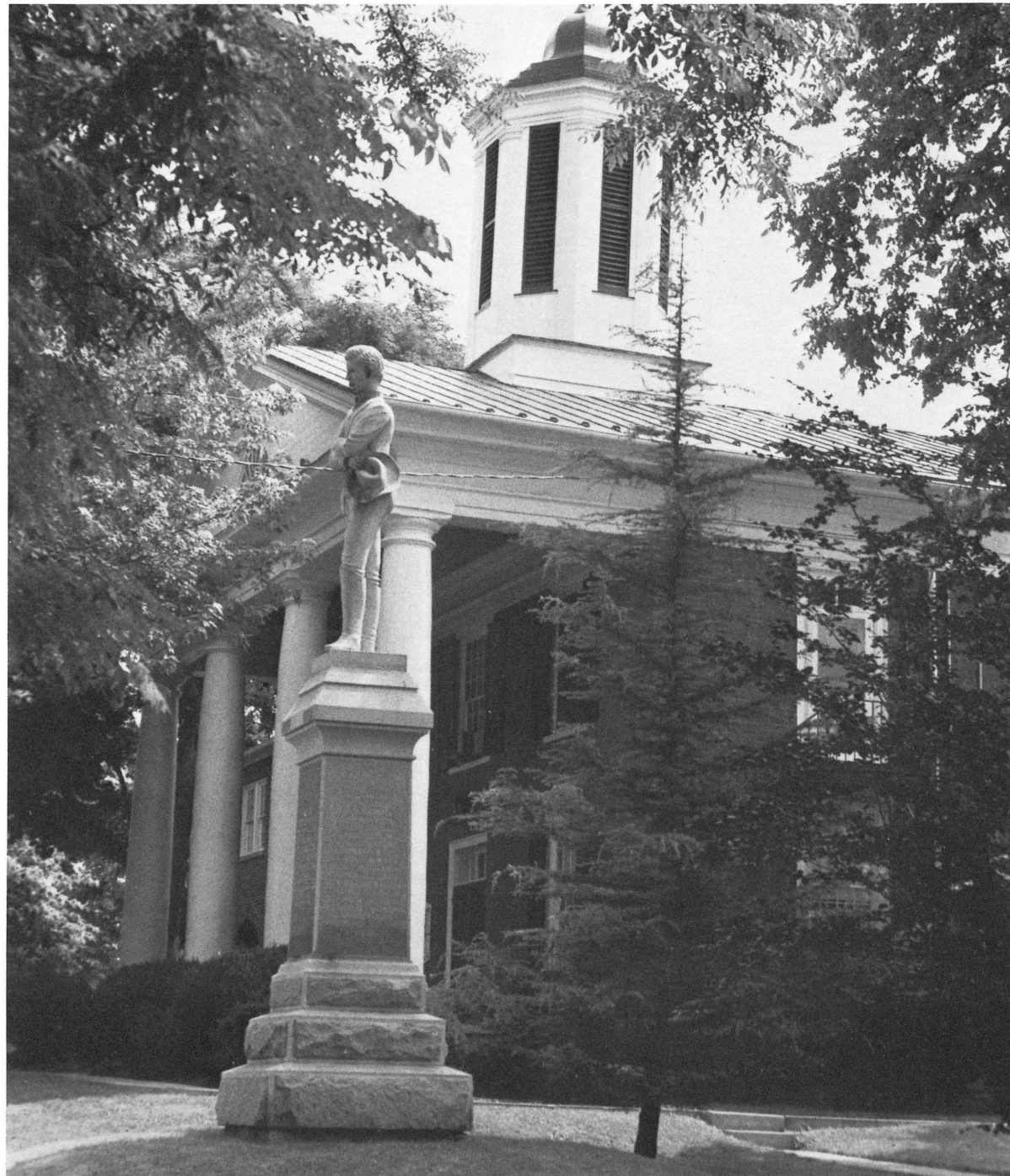
Bethel Green, Augusta County

**Big Run Quarry Site, Rockingham County:** Covering about 1,500 square meters, this site has yielded huge amounts of debris typical of a quarry site. The site is significant as the largest and most intensively used prehistoric quarry located within the Shenandoah National Park, and contrasts with other sites used individually as quarries in the sheer amount of debris present. Diagnostic points found here date to early to late Archaic vintage (ca. 5500-1000 B.C.)

**Blackrock Springs Site, Augusta County:** A large and functionally complex site lying within the Paine River drainage system, the Blackrock Springs site contains datable material from about 5500 B.C. to 1000 B.C. The intensive analysis of over 3,000 artifacts from the site has revealed a heretofore unknown aspect of Archaic culture, represented by six horizontal clusters, each indicating a

single occupation by a small group. Comparative study of the Blackrock Springs site and two other prehistoric sites lying at the base of Paine River will allow archaeologists to explore problems of altitudinal variation and its effect on inter-group contact and Archaic cultural ecology.

**Old Clarke County Courthouse, Berryville:** The Old Clarke County Courthouse belongs to Virginia's important and unique collection of Roman Revival courthouses, the prototypes for which were the public building designs of Thomas Jefferson. With its simple tetrastyle Tuscan portico set against red brick walls, the Clarke County Courthouse follows the Jeffersonian example of properly proportioned Roman form rendered in native materials. The building was designed and built by David Meade, younger brother of Bishop William Meade, soon after Clarke County was formed from Frederick County in 1836.



Old Clarke County Courthouse, Berryville

**Catlett House, Staunton:** Standing in the first rank of a collection of unusually sophisticated turn-of-the-century dwellings dotting Staunton's downtown neighborhoods is the Catlett House, a classic example of the American interpretation of the Queen Anne style. Completed in 1897 for Fannie Catlett, widow of the locally prominent R. H. Catlett, the house incorporates all the elements associated with the mode: a mixture of materials, asymmetrical plan, tower, gables, Classical details, and a multiplicity of window types. Lending particular interest is the lavish use of wood shingle cladding echoing the tile cladding of English vernacular buildings.



Catlett House, Staunton

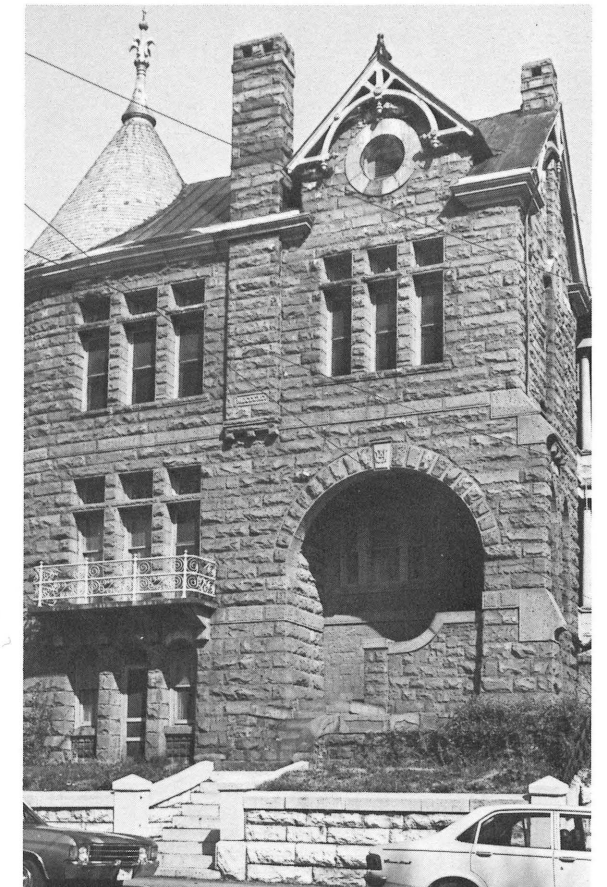
**Compton Gap Site, Warren County:** Significant more for its strategic location than for the extent and richness of its artifactual data, the Compton Gap site played an important communications role in the Late Archaic period as a way station in north-south and east-west movement and exchange. The site is a potentially valuable source of information concerning the relationship between cultural and environmental zones in the prehistory of the mid-Atlantic region. One of the northernmost prehistoric sites identified in the Shenandoah National Park, the Compton Gap site should provide comparative data complementing the more familiar picture of prehistoric development in the Valley and Piedmont.

**Fairfax Hall, Waynesboro:** Conspicuously sited against the mountainside overlooking Waynesboro, Fairfax Hall is one of only two remaining of the late-Victorian resort hotel buildings that once dotted the Shenandoah Valley. The hotel, originally known as the Brandon, was designed by the prominent Washington, D.C. architect William Poin-dexter, who provided a lively Queen Anne scheme in the shingled mode. In 1920 the building became Fairfax Hall, a nationally acclaimed college and preparatory school for girls. The building now serves as a training school for the Department of Corrections.

**Arista Hoge House, Staunton:** The arresting facade of the Arista Hoge House survives as Staunton's only domestic example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. Commissioned by local businessman and public servant Arista Hoge in 1891 as a new front for the house he had built ca. 1882, it is an early work of the firm of Collins and Hackett illustrating the swing in taste during the 1880s from the delicacy of the Italianate to the solidity of the Romanesque. Formed in 1891, the local architectural firm lasted only three years, but its partner T. J. Collins on his own embellished Staunton with some of its finest buildings over the next several decades.



Fairfax Hall, Waynesboro



Arista Hoge House, Staunton



**Jeremey's Run Site, Page County:** The ideal location of Jeremey's Run to the south of a complex of springs and marsh, yet within several rich ecological zones, probably drew prehistoric groups to this spot for millennia. The relatively confined habitable area contains a concentration of lithic debris from the Middle Archaic through the late Woodland periods (ca. 5000 B.C.—1600 A.D.).

**Thomas J. Michie House, Staunton:** Built in 1847-48 for state delegate Thomas J. Michie, this handsome Greek Revival dwelling on Staunton's prestigious East Beverley Street has been home for several of the city's most illustrious citizens. Later owners include Claiborne Rice Mason, a prominent civil engineer; John Echols, founder of the National Valley Bank; Alan Caperton Braxton, a leader in the establishment of the State Corporation Commission; and Henry Winston Holt, Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. The house typifies the conservative, solidly proportioned structures favored by local builders working in the Greek Revival idiom.

**Mulberry Hill, Lexington:** With its complicated evolution from a one-story double-pile core to a two-story, gable-roof dwelling, and finally to a hipped-roofed mansion, Mulberry Hill illustrates important changes in architectural taste in Lexington spanning a hundred-year period. Adding to its interest is the unusually elaborate, though provincial, Georgian woodwork and plasterwork in the principal rooms, some of the finest of its period in the region. Begun ca. 1790 for Andrew Reid, first Clerk of the Court for Rockbridge County, the house was enlarged in the mid-19th century for his son, Samuel McDowell Reid, and given its present appearance ca. 1903 by the local architect William C. McDowell. Complementing the house is a notably handsome early 20th-century garden.



Michie House, Staunton

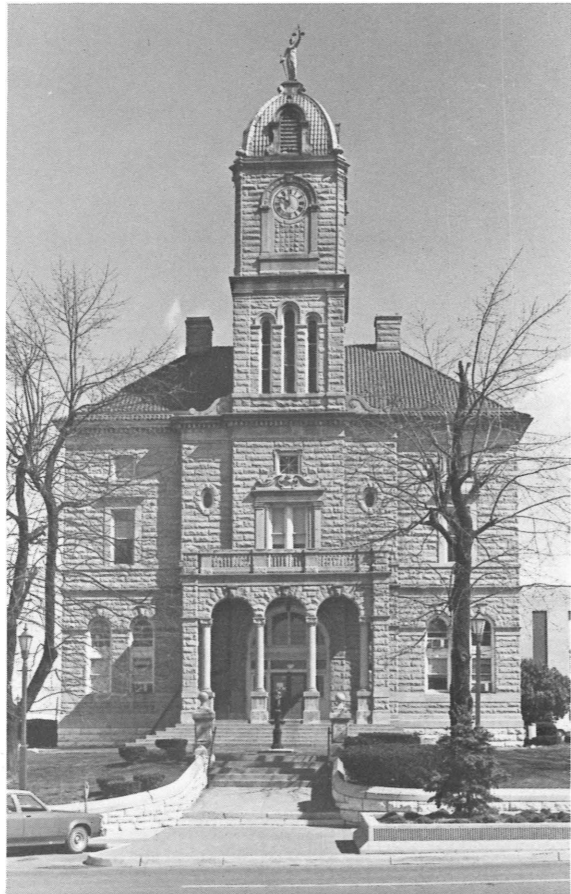


Mulberry Hill, Lexington

**Paine Run Rockshelter, Augusta County:** Representing at least 3,000 years of periodic, small scale occupation, the Paine Run Rockshelter provides local evidence of stylistic and technological change in the prehistoric lithic industry, while permitting examination of the processes of cultural change under controlled conditions. Considered in the context of other notable prehistoric sites in the Shenandoah National Park, Paine Run was heavily populated during the Late Archaic-Early Woodland period, but was little used in late Woodland times. Thus, the site documents that a major change in lifestyle occurred twice in the Blue Ridge before the coming of the Europeans.

**Rockingham County Courthouse, Harrisonburg:** One of nearly 200 buildings designed by Staunton architect T. J. Collins, the Rockingham County Courthouse reveals Collins' mastery of the fashionable Richardsonian Romanesque and Renaissance Revival styles of the late 19th century. The building was constructed by the Washington, D.C. firm of W. E. Spiers between 1896 and 1897 and is the fifth courthouse to stand on the site since the county was formed from Augusta in 1778. With its lively and contrasting elevations and lofty clock tower, the courthouse remains Harrisonburg's most prominent architectural landmark.

**Site Near Paine Run Rockshelter, Augusta County:** A functionally varied site with high artifact density, this site probably served as a staging ground for seasonal movement into the Blue Ridge in Archaic times. Abundant comparative data from this and other Paine Run sites offer archaeologists an almost unparalleled opportunity to investigate the effects of altitude on prehistoric adaptive strategies on the western face of the mountains. Its high frequency of red jasper is unique in the Shenandoah National Park, and may suggest an early, Paleo-Indian occupation of the site.



Rockingham County Courthouse, Harrisonburg

## Southwest

**Buchanan County Courthouse, Grundy:** The Renaissance Revival-style courthouse at Grundy, in the heart of Virginia's coal fields is Buchanan County's most distinguished public building. The fourth courthouse to serve the county since its formation in 1858, the gray sandstone edifice with its tall corner clock tower was designed by Frank P. Milburn and Company of Washington, D.C. and completed in 1906. Milburn's firm was responsible for several other courthouses in Southwest Virginia and also supervised the 1917 reconstruction of the Buchanan courthouse interior, gutted by fire in 1915.

**Colonial National Bank, Roanoke:** Colonial National Building, built in 1926-27, is representative of the growth



Buchanan County Courthouse, Grundy



Colonial National Bank, Roanoke

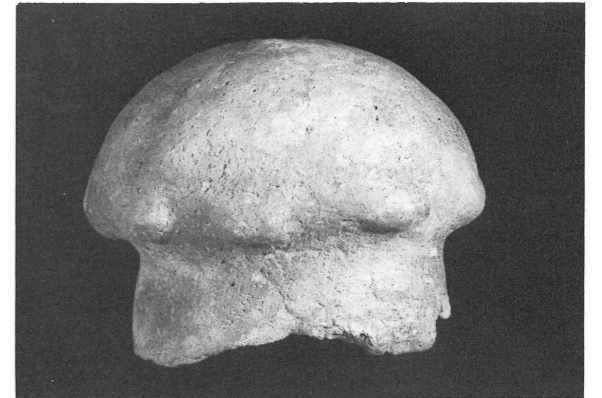
of Roanoke as the banking hub of Southwest Virginia. Twelve stories high, with granite on the first three stories and gray-enamel brick and terra cotta decoration, the building was designed by the local firm of Frye and Stone. It represents the last phases of Neo-Classicism and the introduction of Modernism into the area. Roanoke's tallest building for fifty years, the Colonial National stands among Virginia's first group of skyscrapers.

**Dickenson County Courthouse, Clintwood:** The Colonial Revival Dickenson County Courthouse is a prominent landmark in the heart of the Commonwealth's coal-mining region. The straightforward, massive building is symbolic of the county's prosperity during the 1910s, which resulted from expanded railroad construction, increased timber production, and coal mining in the area. Completed in 1915 from the design of architect H. M. Miller, the building is the third courthouse to serve the county since its creation from parts of Russell, Wise, and Buchanan counties in 1880.

**Flanary Archaeological Site, Scott County:** The Flanary Archaeological Site contains stratified deposits dating to the Archaic and Late Woodland periods of Indian settlement. Archaic period deposits (2500 B.C. to 800 A.D.) are a very rare occurrence for the western portion of the state, while the site's Late Woodland period remains (A.D. 800-1600) overlying these deposits could provide crucial data for regional studies on Indian subsistence and settlement. The presence of artifacts at the site relating to the Indians of eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina is valuable in documenting the interactions of Virginia Indians with their neighbors to the south.



Dickenson County Courthouse, Clintwood



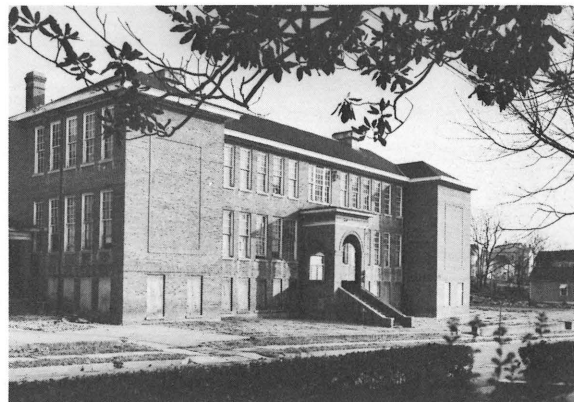
Squash effigy vessel dating to ca. A.D. 950 from Flanary Site excavation, Scott County

**Giles County Courthouse, Pearisburg:** The earliest and most prominent landmark of Pearisburg, this Federal-style building is the third courthouse to stand on the town's central public square since the county was established in 1806. The original two-story central block with its distinctive octagonal cupola was constructed in 1836 by Thomas Mercer and bears a stylistic similarity to several notable area residences traditionally attributed to an unknown Bedford County builder. In May, 1862, the courthouse square became the scene of an encounter between Union and Confederate troops that is graphically recorded in the diary of Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes, the Union officer then in command and later 19th president of the United States.

**Harrison School, Roanoke:** Constructed in 1916, Roanoke's Harrison School symbolizes the pioneering efforts of Lucy Addison and other black educators in Southwest Virginia to offer academic secondary instruction to all children regardless of race. These efforts were all the more remarkable in view of the paucity of black public high schools in Virginia during this period and the prevailing educational theory of the Progressive era that Negroes should receive industrial, rather than academic or collegiate, instruction. Serving throughout its history as a center of black educational, social and cultural activities in Roanoke, the building is a typical example of public design of the period, employing a very modified Georgian-style format. No longer a school, the building is to be preserved for an alternate use.



*Giles County Courthouse, Pearisburg*

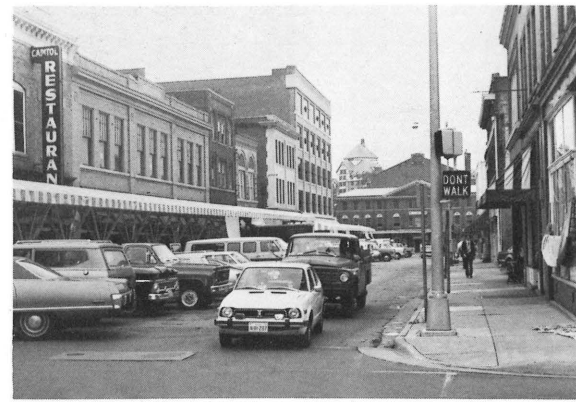


*Harrison School, Roanoke*

**Roanoke Warehouse Historic District, Roanoke:** The Roanoke Warehouse Historic District, also known as "Wholesale Row," consists of five warehouses, all erected between 1889 and 1902 for the storage of wholesale food in transit. Closely identified with Roanoke's emergence at the turn of the century as the wholesale capital of Southwest Virginia, the buildings of the district exemplify the functional tradition of early industrial warehouse design. The brick structures are characterized by powerful rectangular lines, gabled ends, rows of segmental arched deep set windows, iron door and window moldings, post-and-beam timber supports on the interior, and heavily cast tie rods. A notable architectural feature of two of the warehouses is a stepped gabled roof with brick corbeling, reminiscent of buildings in the Dutch vernacular tradition.



*Roanoke Warehouse Historic District*



*Roanoke City Market Historic District*

**Roanoke City Market Historic District, Roanoke:** Roanoke's Market District has served as the primary marketplace for the city and the surrounding six-county area for over a century. The centerpiece of the district, which comprises more than sixty structures displaying the full range of late 19th-century-to-early 20th-century commercial styles, is the City Market Building on Market Square, one of Roanoke's major landmarks, constructed in 1922 to replace the city's first market building erected on the same site in 1886. The district is also notable for its harmony of materials and appealing human scale, with brick, two-to-three-story commercial buildings framing the open public space of the central market square defined by First Street, Campbell Avenue, Salem Avenue, and Wall Street. In recent years, the area has become the main target of the city's centennial revitalization efforts. These combine innovative design concepts and local historic district zoning with strong public and private backing for the planned adaptive reuse of the City Market Building and Fire Station No. 1 and for the renovation of the McGuire Building as a regional cultural and science center.

**Williams House, Richlands:** With its construction in 1890 tied to the founding of Richlands, the Williams House is this Tazewell County town's most historically important house. The building was one of the first to be built in Richlands and served as the main office of the investment group that planned and founded the town. The building's architecture is testimony to the grand dreams of that group: its oversized windows and other architectural features were commensurate with their intention to make Richlands the Pittsburgh of the South. The building was later used as the first hospital in Richlands and thus was associated with one of the more prominent people in Richlands' history, physician W. R. Williams.

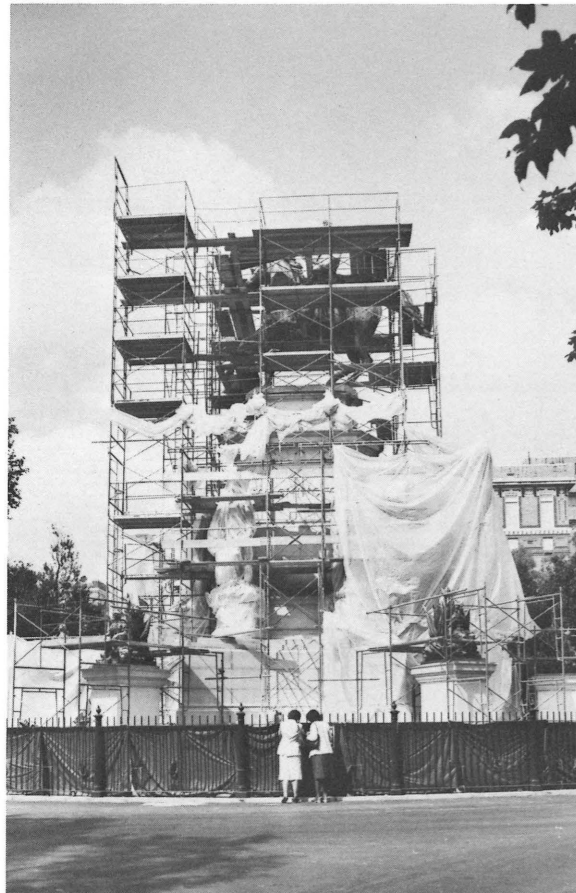


*Williams House, Richlands*

# State Undertakes Rehabilitation of Landmarks in Capitol Square Area

Several prominent state-owned landmarks in the Capitol Square area are currently undergoing rehabilitation, giving a new look to the neighborhood. Most conspicuous of the projects is the cleaning and restoration of the **Washington Monument** in the square itself. The monument, the masterpiece of sculptor Thomas Crawford, was inspected by metallurgists two years ago who found its bronze statues to be suffering serious corrosion. Metal loss in some areas had extended to a depth of an eighth of an inch. An unfortunate side-effect of the corrosion was the disfiguring blotchy green and black coloring the statues had acquired. On the advice of Ray Lindberg, a retired metallurgist from Reynolds Metals Company, the General Assembly appropriated funds for the cleaning and repatinizing of the statues. The work is being conducted by a team of conservators from Washington University Technical Associates of St. Louis under the direction of Phoebe Dent Weil. Restoration consists of removing the green corrosion and repatinizing the metal using a process that will give the statues the original golden brown color intended by the artist and noted in contemporary

*Corroded bronze statues of the Washington Monument undergo cleaning and repatinizing.*



descriptions. The same treatment was given to the smaller statues in Capitol Square a year ago. Included in this year's project is the restoration of the equestrian statue of **Robert E. Lee** on Monument Avenue which is also owned by the state. All of the statues have been placed on an annual maintenance schedule by the Division of Engineering and Buildings to prevent further corrosion. The Washington Monument contains thirteen separate sculptures including the famous equestrian statue of Washington, and is regarded as one of the nation's most important works of American art.

Immediately adjacent to the Washington Monument, the **Virginia State Capitol** designed by Thomas Jefferson, is having its stuccoed walls repaired and repainted. The project, directed by local architect James Scott Rawlings, will eliminate the unsightly cracks that have developed in the wall surface. In the repainting, the color is being changed from the pale battleship gray that the Capitol has had for many years to a warmer buff color that more closely resembles a natural stucco.

*The State Capitol's stuccoed walls are being repaired and repainted.*



A small-scale project, but one that is significant for the many visitors to Capitol Square, is the remodeling of the interior of the **Bell Tower** of 1824 which stands in the southwest corner of the square. Previously, the Bell Tower had served as a temporary office for the Lieutenant Governor but is now being used as the Virginia State Travel Service information center. In its new role, the tower is being visited by scores of tourists weekly where they receive material on Virginia's many historic, scenic, and recreational attractions. The interior design work was provided by Jack Thompson of Richmond.

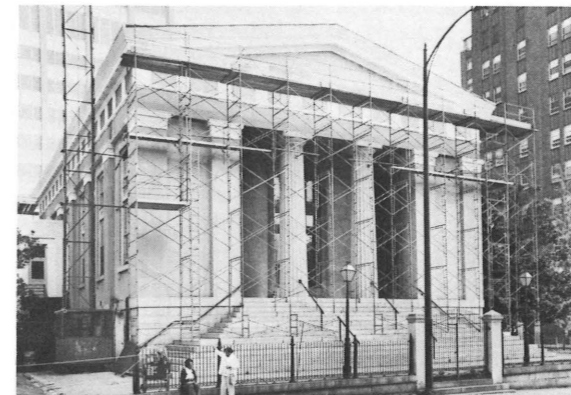


After being threatened with demolition for over a decade, renovation has finally commenced on the **Old First Baptist Church** located one block from Capitol Square on Broad Street in the Medical College of Virginia complex. The church, designed by the nationally prominent architect, Thomas U. Walter, ranks among Virginia's outstanding examples of the Greek Revival style. Funds authorized for the building's demolition were diverted to its renovation when it was decided not to use the First Baptist site for a new pharmacology building. Phase one of the renovation is in progress and consists of exterior and structural repair only. Phase two, which will probably begin next year, will restore the interior as a student center with an upgraded cafeteria on the ground floor. Except for the pews, most of the original interior architectural features survive and will be preserved. The architects of the project are SWA of Richmond.

*The Bell Tower now serves as the Virginia State Travel Service information center.*



*The exterior of the Old First Baptist Church is being restored.*

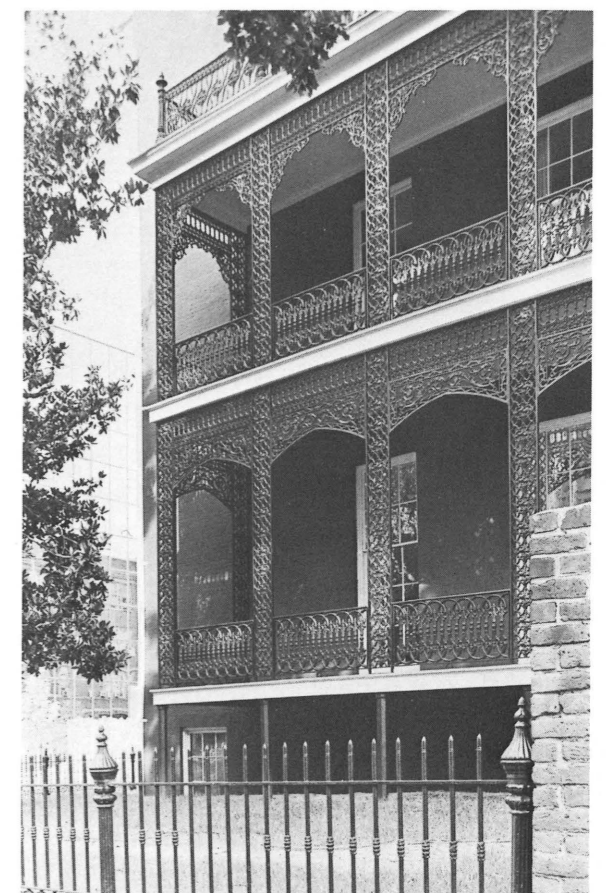


An interesting project, also in the Medical College complex, is the recently completed restoration of the **Putney Houses**, two very fine Italianate townhouses erected in 1859 at the corner of Marshall and 11th Streets. The corner dwelling, graced by an exceptionally ornate two-tiered cast-iron veranda, now houses administrative offices as well as the offices of the MCV Foundation. In the restoration of the house next door it was discovered beneath layers of paint and wallpaper that the walls of the large first-floor parlor were originally decorated with *trompe l'oeil* painted architectural panels. Because the original paint was too disfigured to restore, it was decided to repaint the panels exactly and have the parlor serve as a conference room rather than to divide it into offices. The painting was executed by artisans of the firm of Lewis E. Ferguson & Son of Richmond; the architectural work was done by SWA also of Richmond. For this restoration project, Virginia Commonwealth University (of which the Medical College is a Division) was given the Historic Richmond Foundation's 1982 Preservation Award.



*The Putney House parlor has its original trompe l'oeil panels repaired.*

*Famous cast-iron veranda on the corner Putney House gets repairs during recent restoration.*



# Notes on Landmarks

Despite heroic efforts on the part of hundreds of Alexandrians to save it, the Queen Anne-style May House at 418 N. Washington Street in **Alexandria's Old Town Historic District** has been demolished by its owners. The 96-year-old house was too young to be saved under the city's law regulating the destruction of 100-year-old buildings. The Historic Alexandria Foundation, which led the protest to save the building, is now seeking to amend the city's preservation law to protect all buildings in the historic district.

Eleven deteriorating buildings in Richmond's **Jackson Ward Historic District** have been renovated to furnish housing for moderate-income families. Toward the \$822,000 project by Jackson Ward Associates, the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority made a \$100,000 loan and the Virginia Housing Development Authority provided the major portion of the mortgage. SWA, a private group actively involved in numerous local rehabilitation efforts, designed the townhouse renovations. Properties in Jackson Ward are also being purchased and rehabilitated under a cooperative agreement between the RRHA and the non-profit Task Force for Historic Preservation. The pilot program will renovate seven rental properties as subsidized housing, with future cooperative housing planned. Investors are to be attracted by federal tax incentives, local tax abatements, and tax-exempt bonds.

A major restoration/renovation of the **John Fox, Jr. House** in Big Stone Gap, Wise County, has



begun under a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission of \$235,000 and a \$15,000 grant from the Virginia General Assembly. The project to restore the house to its condition when author John Fox, Jr. and his parents lived in it in the late 19th and early 20th century is administered through the National Park Service and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. VHLC historical architect Douglas Harnsberger is providing technical advice on the appropriate use of materials in the restoration and will prepare the Historic Structures Report for review by the National Park Service. The house is listed on the state and national registers.

**The Chimneys**, a fine Georgian house in the Fredericksburg Historic District, has recently been restored and opened as a restaurant. Now known as The Chimney's Public House, the property was sold to William Vakos by the Historic Fredericksburg

Foundation, Inc. Mr. Vakos had the house restored under the direction of Henry Browne, AIA, and has leased it to the present occupant. The VHLC holds a preservation easement on the property.

A fire on November 5, 1982 caused \$2,000 damage to Alexandria's **Jones Point Lighthouse**.



The blaze broke out in the top level of the simple frame structure near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and was quickly brought under control. The lighthouse was built in 1855 and is one of the oldest surviving inland waterway lighthouses in America.

The Garden Club of Virginia has unveiled its restoration of the grounds of **Kerr Place** for the



Eastern Shore Historical Society. The Georgian mansion, built in 1799 at Onancock and noted for its fine brickwork and handsome interior woodwork, has been the home of the historical society since 1960. The grounds have been replanted by the Garden Club in typical 19th-century plantings, with funds raised by Historic Garden Week in Virginia. The project is the club's 28th restoration project in 50 years of historic garden work.

The Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation has completed field examinations for a project at **Settler's Landing Road** in Hampton and has located stratified deposits dating from ca. 1680 to the present. The project was the Department's first opportunity to investigate maritime mercantile operations in a major seaport. The Department's Phase II investigations on the proposed alignment of Interstate 85 and 95 in Henrico, Ches-

terfield, and Prince George counties have located ten archaeological sites deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, according to VDHT consultant Lyle Browning.

The restoration of **Fort Harrison**, Rockingham County, one of the oldest buildings in the Shenandoah Valley, is nearly accomplished. The exterior restoration is now complete, and work on the interior is scheduled to end by the spring. Thanks to



the efforts of the restoration committee, several federal historic preservation grants-in-aid, and the contributions of many citizens, future generations will have this venerable landmark, dating from the 1750s, as a tangible reminder of the Valley's past.

During last June and July, students from the University of California at Berkeley and participants in the university's Research Expedition program conducted excavations at three sites at **Flowerdew Hundred**, an early English settlement in Prince George County. Excavations were continued at an early 17th-century complex of buildings and features, focussing on a major fenceline and an adjacent workshop or light industrial site. A second team completed work at the main dwelling of the 18th-century plantation. A third investigation concerned a small slave dwelling and a stable or barn associated with a 19th-century plantation complex. Excavations at all three sites will be continued during the summer of 1983.

The back of the **Dalton Theatre** in Pulaski has collapsed and the rest of the building is to be demolished. The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission has subsequently removed the building from the Virginia Landmarks Register.

The Board of Regents of **Gunston Hall**, Fairfax County are undertaking a thorough investigation of the evolution of the building. Part of the study involves work by VHLC staff archaeologists.

Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park, Inc., Tazewell, Virginia opened October 31, 1982. Depicting the history of the county and Southwest Virginia, the museum features a prehistoric Indian exhibit and diorama of the palisaded village and artifacts from **Big Crab Orchard Archeological Site** (44TZ1). Winter hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.

The Alexandria Urban Archaeological Program reports that its NEH-sponsored city survey has yielded artifact assemblages from 16 sites of various socio-economic levels. Computerized data analysis

of the artifacts is now underway. The program will soon be moving into a laboratory and offices at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in **Old Town Alexandria**. The city anticipates 300,000 visitors a year to the Center.

The Manassas Park Women's Club has begun raising funds for the restoration of the **Conner House**, Prince William County, recently identified as the Confederate Army's first headquarters in North-



ern Virginia. Located near Osbourn Park High School, the old stone farm house is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The club was instrumental in saving the house from demolition several years ago.

**Gadsby's Tavern Museum**, Alexandria, has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment



for the Humanities to conduct research concerning the people who visited and worked at Gadsby's Tavern during the period 1770-1810. Information gathered in the project will be used with the existing research materials at the tavern museum to develop a plan for the presentation of the tavern's history to the public. The museum, located at 134 N. Royal St., is owned and operated by the City of Alexandria.

Plans for a \$4.2 million building at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science have been altered to avoid two of three home sites from 18th-century **Gloucestertown**, Gloucester County. Rescue excavations are being conducted at two additional home

sites and a 17th-century warehouse site by VHLC archaeologists working with volunteers from the Gloucester Historical Society, students from Christopher Newport and Old Dominion, and the William and Mary history and anthropology departments. The sites are part of a larger Gloucester Point Archaeological District currently under consideration by the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Gloucester Historical Society has announced the completion of the first phase of its project to preserve the ruins of **Rosewell**, Gloucester County, the 18th-century Georgian mansion of the Page family, which was gutted by fire in 1916. With 60-foot-tall chimneys, the now-stabilized ruins have been described as Virginia's most majestic spectacle. The society's goal is not restoration, but the clearing of the site, the prevention of further deterioration, and the intensive archaeological investigation of the interior as well as the sites of early outbuildings.

The stabilization of the **Barboursville Mansion** ruins in Orange County was completed earlier this year under the auspices of the VHLC and the National Park Service Cultural Grants Program. The Jefferson-designed house which burned in 1884 leaving only its brick shell, was stabilized by the insertion of steel purlins between free-standing walls, and by the repair of crumbling parapets and brickwork over window and door openings. The successful execution of the grant project objectives will ensure the mansion's lasting presence as a romantic ruin in the rural landscape of Orange County.

The transformation of 119-123 S. Augusta St. in Staunton's **Wharf Area Historic District** from an auto parts warehouse into offices and a restaurant is complete. The developer, Jones and Johnson Properties, consulted with Historic Staunton Foundation's Facade Improvement Program on all phases of the renovation to insure that the ornate Victorian warehouse's unusual architectural quality was preserved. The project was funded entirely through private sources, attracted by federal tax credits for owners who rehabilitate certified historic structures under the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act, and by a local tax abatement ordinance designed to encourage development of existing properties in Staunton.

The Isle of Wight Historical Society has donated funds to stabilize **Boykins Tavern**, Isle of Wight County, the oldest structure at the county courthouse complex. The tavern, which had been deteriorating for the past few years, had its foundation damaged by a rain storm last summer. The county board of supervisors has agreed to allow the society to make temporary repairs and has given it until September, 1983 to find a use for the building and a way to restore it without county money.



The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and its local Smithfield chapter have pooled their resources to make the first major repairs to the **Old Isle of Wight County Courthouse** in Smithfield since its restoration in 1961. Inside the main courtroom, brickwork has been waterproofed, walls have been replastered and woodwork replaced. Outside, the exterior wood and stuccoed portico of the building have received a fresh coat of paint, and the flanking chimneys have been freshly stuccoed and repainted. Built in 1751 and used as a courtroom until 1802, the registered landmark is owned by the APVA.

Dr. Clarence Geier of the James Madison University Archaeological Research Center conducted Phase I and II archaeological surveys of **Oakland Farm** in Newport News for the Regional Redevelopment and Housing Authority for Hampton and Newport News. An Early-to-Middle Woodland camp, an early 17th- through 18th-century plantation, and a Civil War fortification were located and tested. Documentation of these sites is now being prepared to create the first state archaeological zone.

During September and October, 1982, Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. conducted a Phase I and Phase II archaeological survey at **Fort A.P. Hill** in Bowling Green. Areas surveyed included six locations of future construction and seventeen known prehistoric and historic sites. The Phase I survey resulted in the discovery of fourteen additional prehistoric and historic sites, including the probable location of Windsor Mansion (ca. 1730). Phase II field work was conducted on selected Archaic, Woodland, 18th-century, and 19th-century sites. Sites of particular significance included a mid-18th-century post building and the Mount Church/Rappahannock Academy complex.

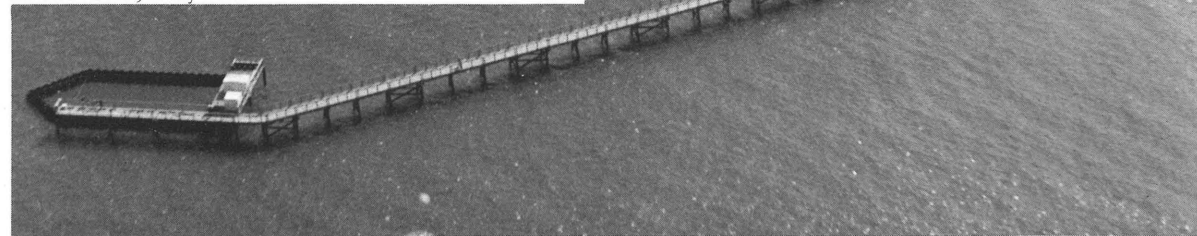
Aided by an appropriation from the Virginia General Assembly, the Archaeological Society of Virginia is nearing completion of artifact analysis and report preparation for the **Trigg site** in Radford. Dating principally to the Late Woodland Period, this important prehistoric site was excavated in 1974 and 1975. Selected artifacts from the excavations will be used by the city of Radford in the preparation of an archaeological exhibit.

The Town of Abingdon in Washington County will preserve its turn-of-the-century railway depot at **Depot Square** for use by the Abingdon Chamber of Commerce and the town police. Plans for an east-west thoroughfare through the square have been approved on condition that the depot and a pre-1884 freight station are saved. The depot is on the edge of the **Abingdon Historic District** which will probably be expanded to include it.

In a project unique to the state of Virginia, a Charlottesville developer has begun renovating 62 units of low- and moderate-income housing in the heart of the city. The apartments renovated by the Dogwood Housing Development are the only privately developed scattered site units in the state to receive federal rent subsidies. Three of the houses, at 407, 517, and 711 Ridge St., will be renovated to federal specifications for historic preservation projects. The three houses are part of a **Ridge Street Historic District** included in a multiple resource area which has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places on the recommendation of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.



N. W. Bundy officially launches the cofferdam project.  
Kenneth Silver, Daily Press



The Yorktown cofferdam and pier as seen from the air.

Chris Evans, Gloucester Gazette-Journal

## York River Cofferdam and Pier Dedicated at Yorktown

Yorktown Day, October 19, 1982, marked an important achievement for the Yorktown Shipwreck Archaeological Project. A public ceremony was held at Yorktown to dedicate the project's newly completed cofferdam and pier, constructed in the York River to facilitate excavation of the best preserved Yorktown shipwreck, known to archaeologists as YO 88.

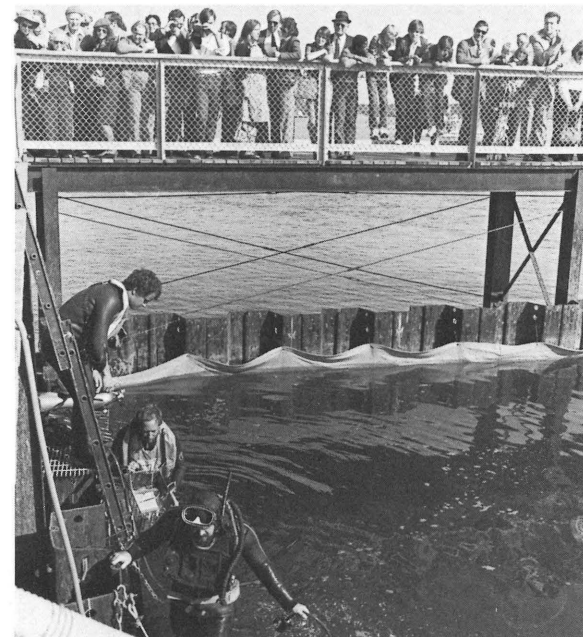
The Yorktown Project is an ongoing research effort of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, resulting in the discovery and assessment of nine ships from the Battle of Yorktown, 1781. To combat the strong currents and near-zero visibility of the York River, a steel cofferdam was constructed around the ship, allowing the enclosed water to be filtered to produce a "swimming pool" environment. The cofferdam and connecting pier will allow archaeologists and visitors alike to observe the excavations in progress.

Presiding over the ceremony was Mary Douthat Higgins, the new Commission Chairman. Mrs. Higgins introduced a series of speakers including E. S. Bingley, Jr., Chairman of the York County Board of Supervisors; H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director of the Landmarks Commission; Edward L. Chambers, Yorktown Maritime Heritage Foundation; and John D. Broadwater, VHLC Senior Underwater Archaeologist and director of the Yorktown Project. Nellie White Bundy, Vice-Chairman of the Landmarks Commission, then christened the dam by breaking a bottle of champagne and officially launched the project. Diving operations by Commission archaeologists and students from East Carolina University commenced immediately, as United States Coast Guard fire boats played water jets of red, white, and blue in an arch over the 500-foot pier and the cofferdam.

The ceremony was jointly sponsored by the Historic Landmarks Commission, York County, and the Town of York. The project, funded by federal,

state, county, and private contributions, is unique within the United States and has already been recognized for its historic, cultural, educational, and economic value to Yorktown and to the Commonwealth. The pier, which was constructed through the cooperative effort of the York County Board of Supervisors and the Yorktown Trustees, will be open to the public from Easter to Thanksgiving, 1983.

Also on October 19, a new exhibition on the Yorktown Project opened in Theatre C of the Yorktown Victory Center.



In October, the Yorktown Project hosted a graduate field school in Maritime History and Underwater Archaeology from East Carolina University. Here, ECU students (l. to r.) Lee Cox, Wilson West, and David Moore prepare for a dive as a number of visitors look on.  
Man Brown, Yorktown Crier

## Around The State

Members of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, State Review Board, and Commission staff were among the special guests and featured speakers at **Roanoke's Centennial Conference on Historic Preservation and Urban Revitalization**, held at Hotel Roanoke on September 16-19, 1982 by the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Junior League of Roanoke Valley, the City of Roanoke, Downtown Roanoke, Inc., and the Roanoke Valley Arts Center. Following the keynote luncheon address by National Trust President Michael Ainslie, VHLC Executive Director H. Bryan Mitchell addressed the opening general session on the state historic preservation mandate and its implications for urban redevelopment. On the second day of the conference Review Board member Roy E. Graham and staff members Calder Loth, Ann Miller, and Margaret Mickler conducted separate workshops on commercial districts and neighborhoods. The meetings ended with a colorful festival of neighborhoods that included an exhibition of preservation techniques. As a fitting tribute to Roanoke's achievements in preserving and revitalizing the city's historic downtown areas, the Commission and State Review Board held their regular monthly meetings jointly in Roanoke in conjunction with the conference. The commissioners and board members unanimously approved the placement of the Roanoke City Market Historic District, the Roanoke Warehouse Historic District, and Roanoke's Colonial National Bank Building on the Virginia Landmarks Register. The Commission and the Trust served together as advisors in the planning of the conference.

From September 23 through October 3, the VHLC presented a photographic exhibition of agency activities and services in the Commonwealth Building at the **1982 Virginia State Fair**. Entitled "Managing a Resource," the exhibition was designed and assembled by the Commission staff to illustrate the Commission's systematic efforts to identify, evaluate, and preserve Virginia's irreplaceable historic, architectural, and archaeological resources. Visitors to the exhibition, among them Governor Charles S. Robb, were greeted by VHLC staff members, who responded to the public's inquiries.

The Commission has issued **two recent publications** of interest to readers of *Notes on Virginia*. *Managing a Resource: The Public's Investment in the Preservation and Development of Virginia's Historic Landmarks* is a sixty-page report on the economic benefits of historic preservation to the Commonwealth. Compiled by the Commission staff from information on preservation developments in sixteen Virginia cities and towns, the report documents the significant role which Virginia's historic buildings, sites, and districts play in urban revitalization and tourism development. The Commission has also published an attractive new brochure highlighting the coordinated resource management programs of the state historic preservation office. The brochure features a concise description of the Commission's mandate and programs and is illustrated with more than fifty photographs. Copies of both publications may be obtained by writing the Commission's main office.

Since the summer of 1982 the Commission staff has presented several **workshops and seminars on federal tax benefits** to owners who rehabilitate historic properties. On September 29, 1982, VHLC Executive Director H. Bryan Mitchell and staff members Calder Loth and Ann Miller participated in a program in Fredericksburg on the federal tax incentives for rehabilitation and on preservation easements. The program was sponsored jointly by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. On November 18, 1982, Mitchell addressed the James River Chapter of the American Institute of Architects on the federal rehabilitation tax incentives and the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*. During the past federal fiscal year the Commission staff has reviewed sixty-nine rehabilitation projects for certification under provisions of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. The Act offers a 25% tax credit to owners who rehabilitate income-producing property on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Certified properties in registered historic districts are also eligible under the law. The sixty-nine projects represent a combined private investment of \$18.9 million in the Commonwealth's economy.

For further information on the Tax Act, including the scheduling of a seminar on the requirements for certification under the law, please call or write the Historic Landmarks Commission.

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission has recently approved the texts of **historical highway markers** for 750 Main Street, Danville; the Calvary United Methodist Church, Danville; Early Settlers in Russell County; Fork Church, Hanover County; Goldvein, Fauquier County; Fitchett's Wharf, Mathews County; First Flight Ship to Shore, Willoughby Spit; and First Passenger Flight, Ft. Myer. The markers are manufactured by Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio and are erected and maintained by the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation.

The Commission has entered into a formal agreement with the Division of Engineering and Buildings whereby the Commission staff will participate in developing **renovation plans for state-owned old buildings**. The Division has also established procedures for the formal review by the Commission of all demolition proposals made by state agencies.

Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, the Landmarks Commission is conducting **archaeological surveys** of several small stream reservoirs and flood control projects planned by the Service. The majority of these projects are located within Amherst, Buckingham, Fauquier, and Prince Edward Counties. This agreement will give the VHLC an opportunity to examine and test small stream environments within the Piedmont, an area that has received only minimal archaeological attention in the past. The surveys will be performed by Staff Archaeologist Herb Fisher.

## VHLC Elects New Chairman

**Mary Douthat Higgins** was elected Chairman of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission at the Commission's October meeting, thus becoming the first woman to hold this position. Mrs. Higgins has served on the Commission for six years.

Mrs. Higgins' preservation-related experience is extensive. She is a very active life-member of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, most recently serving as the Association's president. Mrs. Higgins has also chaired the Governor's Advisory Committee on Archaeology.

Mrs. Higgins is a Richmond native who attended St. Catherine's School and Mary Baldwin College. Her interest in historic architecture, archaeology, and preservation is manifest in the many historical, technical, and service organizations to which she belongs and to which she has so generously donated her time.

As Chairman, Mrs. Higgins succeeds Frederic H. Cox, AIA, whose four-year term on the Commission had ended.

Nellie White Bundy, who had served as Acting Chairman since July, was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.



The Commission's new Chairman—Mary Douthat Higgins  
Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

## New Commissioners Appointed

**W. Brown Morton, III** of Waterford and **Richard Rennolds** of Tappahannock have recently been appointed by Governor Charles S. Robb to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. Mr. Morton and Mr. Rennolds succeed Frederic H. Cox, AIA and Roy Eugene Graham, AIA, whose terms recently expired.

Mr. Morton is a historic preservation consultant and an Episcopal priest. He has held a wide variety of architectural positions with the National Park Service as Chief of the Technical Preservation Services Division and Principal Architect of the Historic American Buildings Survey. A special assignment given him by the Department of the Interior was that of Conservation Architect with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome.

Mr. Morton has participated in preservation

studies and conferences around the world, and has authored many works, including *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects* with Gary Hume. Mr. Morton is a 1961 graduate of the University of Virginia.

Mr. Rennolds is the recently named Director of Development for St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock, Virginia. For eleven and a half years prior to this appointment, he worked with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities as the Director of Information. Mr. Rennolds is Vice-President of the American Institute of Dendrochronology. Dendrochronology is a process which employs computer technology in the dating of wood members from old buildings.

Mr. Rennolds is a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Virginia with a degree in history.

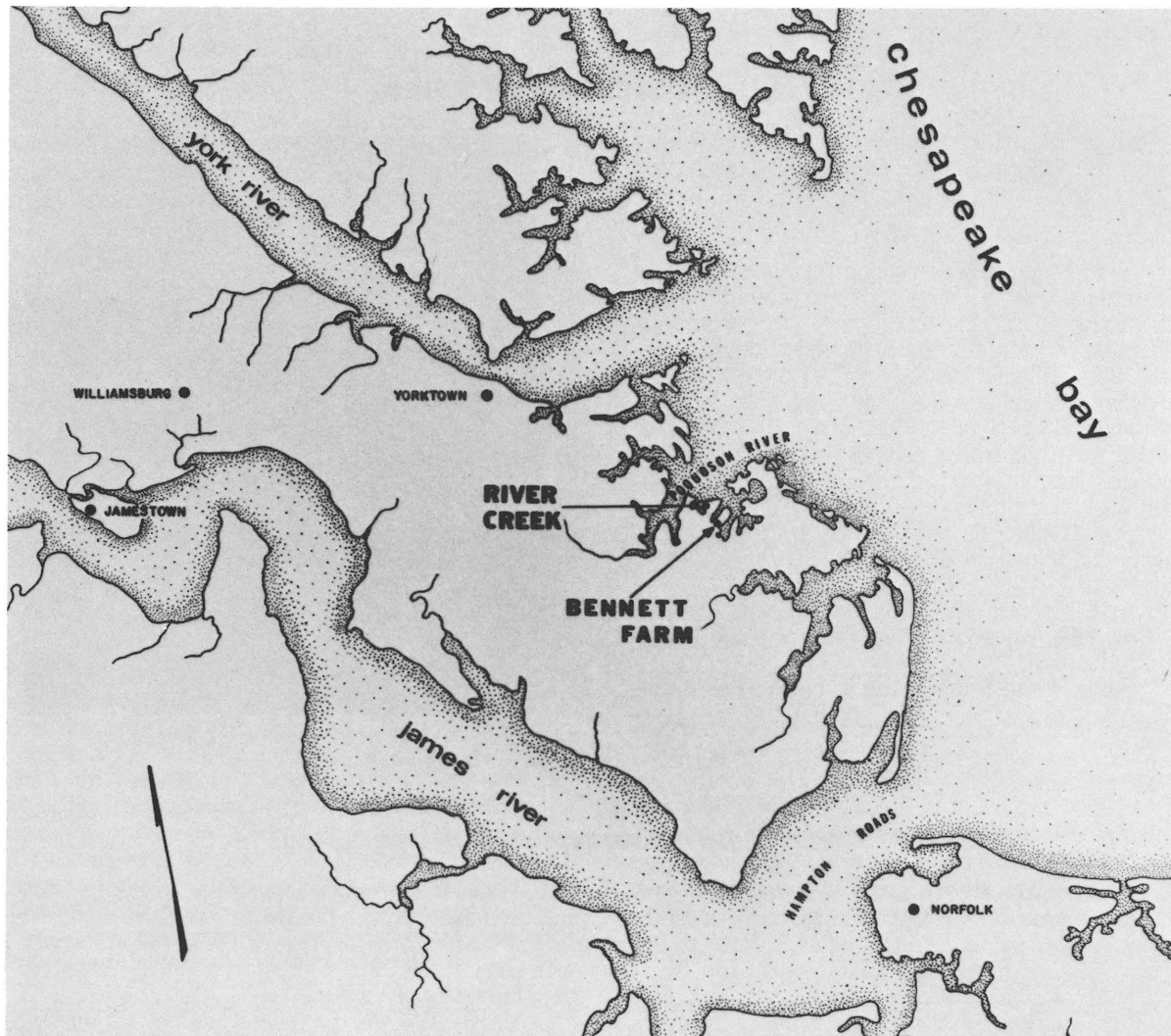
## Staff Personnel Update

**Susan Alexander** joined the staff in June, 1982 as Assistant Registrar. Ms. Alexander graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.A. in Art History in 1972, and later attended Virginia Commonwealth University as a graduate student in Art History. She has worked in the historic preservation program of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and in the Reference Department of the Virginia State Library.

**Sarah D. Lanford** assumed the position of Grants Manager in September, 1982. Ms. Lanford received her A.B. from Smith College and her M.A. in Architectural History from the University of Virginia in 1981. Ms. Lanford has interned with the

North Carolina state historic preservation office and the Preservation Institute at Nantucket. A recent article of hers on Ralph Adams Cram as Princeton's Architect appeared in *The Princeton University Library Chronicle*.

**Marcie Renner** has joined the archaeological staff as Artifact Conservator with the underwater section. Ms. Renner is a graduate student at Texas A&M University where she is working towards a degree in Anthropology, with a concentration in the conservation of artifacts from underwater sites. Ms. Renner is originally from Roanoke, Virginia and received her undergraduate degree from The College of William and Mary.



Location of Bennett Farm and River Creek sites, two of the earliest settlements along the York River.

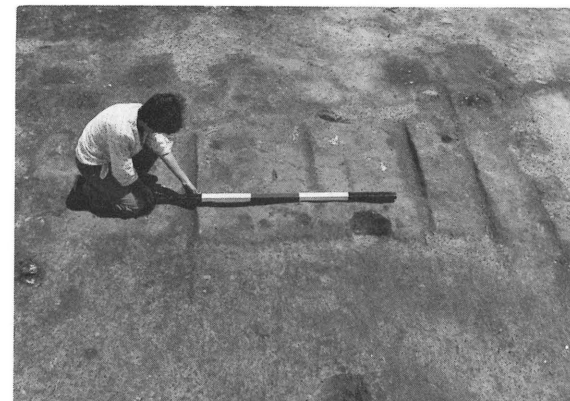
## 17th-Century Planters in "New Pocosin": Excavations at Bennett Farm and River Creek

The network of creeks and navigable rivers feeding the abundant Chesapeake Bay, which attracted colonists to the York River in the 1630s, today is beckoning land developers of the 1970s and 1980s to the same locations on which early plantations were seated. Archaeological remains at Bennett Farm and River Creek in Poquoson represent some of the first major occupations along the York River. Destruction of early traces of habitation there recently has been averted by the combined efforts of concerned citizens and historical, educational, and amateur archaeological organizations, working in cooperation with state archaeologists from the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. Together the individuals and groups were able to rescue remains of 17th-century Poquoson from the jaws of bulldozer buckets.

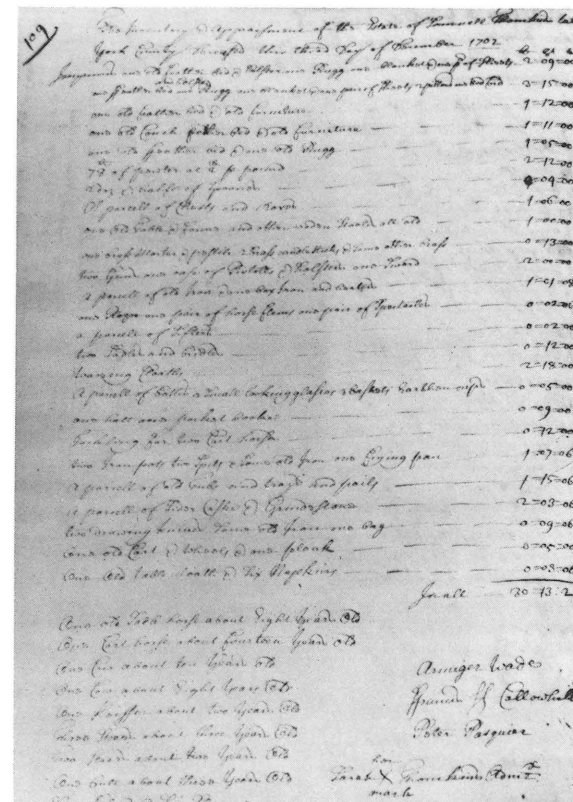
Both Poquoson sites were called to the attention of the VHLC by Mr. Hugh Wornom, a longtime Poquoson resident with a vigorous interest in the history and archaeology of his community. In 1978 Wornom alerted the VHLC to an impending housing development on the site of a 17th-century plantation known today as Bennett Farm. Once the VHLC's laboratory staff had verified that the artifacts collected from the site dated to the second half of the 17th century, a survey team was dispatched to determine the precise location and nature of archaeological features within the area of the proposed housing project. After securing permission from owner/developer James C. Moore, who later donated machinery and operators to the excavation, the survey team dug shovel-sized test holes across the site and soon located two large trash pits and the



Only the bottom barrel of this barrel-lined well survived intact.



Rectangular pad of orange clay surrounded by postholes represents the remains of a wood-and-clay chimney at River Creek.



The inventory of the estate of Samuel Tompkins, who inherited Bennett Farm in 1674, reinforces archaeological evidence that the site's owners were not prosperous.



In right background Hugh Wornom helps VHLC archaeologists excavate a River Creek trash pit rich in artifacts indicative of the Trotters' wealth and status.

corner hole of a post-constructed building. Because these features set squarely in the center of several proposed house lots, the VHLC decided to proceed with extensive salvage excavations.

A layer of soil that had been disturbed by more than three centuries of cultivation covered the area surrounding the house and trash pits. Owing to constraints of time and money this plow zone was removed mechanically to reveal a domestic complex consisting of a dwelling, one outbuilding, two wells, and a dozen trash pits.

Preliminary search of the York County records, which fortunately were spared the destruction common to the records of many countries during the Civil War, indicated that the tract of land on which Bennett Farm is situated was first granted to Samuel Bennett sometime before 1636. By 1639 the estate passed to his daughter Hannah, who married Abraham Turner five years later. Not long after Turner's death Hannah married Humphrey Tompkins, in 1648. It was the home of the Tompkins family, from the time of the marriage of Humphrey and Hannah through the death of their son Samuel in 1702, that was excavated at Bennett Farm.

As excavation of the site proceeded it became evident the Tompkins house had been a frame structure built around posts set into the ground. It measured 20' x 34', was without cellars or storage pits, and may have had wood and clay hoods covering open hearths. The artifact assemblage recovered from Bennett Farm suggested the Tompkins family subsisted at an austere level. Approximately 40% of the ceramic objects discarded were inexpensive, locally manufactured, utilitarian items. About half of these were products of potter Morgan Jones, who operated a kiln in Westmoreland County in 1677. Imported ceramics found at the site consisted pri-

*Assemblage of River Creek artifacts, including an English delftware mug, a Dutch maiolica plate, a Rhenish stoneware faceted jug, a glass tumbler, and a brass tobacco box with a marked English pipe.*



marily of Raeren stoneware jugs, Staffordshire slipwares, and plain delftwares. No Chinese porcelain was found.

Since wells are often a rich source of artifacts, archaeologists anticipated that the picture of life at Bennett Farm would be greatly enhanced by the refuse tossed into the two wells. Unhappily, only a handful of artifacts were found, although each well contained a surprise at the bottom. About four-and-one-half feet down in the first well occurred a dark, circular stain which had the appearance of a decayed barrel. This suspicion was soon verified by bisecting the stain to expose a distinct barrel profile. Continued excavation uncovered a fully intact barrel immediately below the exposed stain, providing clear evidence that the well shaft had been lined with barrels placed one on top of the other. This departure from the more typical method of lining wells with compass bricks might be interpreted as another manifestation of the financial limitations of Humphrey Tompkins. The second well proved even more barren than the first. It contained only two artifacts, one of which was a section of wooden ladder found protruding from the bottom layer of the eleven-foot-deep well.

Fortunately, the twelve trash pits at Bennett Farm were as artifact-rich as the wells were poor. Among the several informative artifact components recovered, a large number of items related to the utilization of natural resources. In this group agricultural activities were represented by twenty-six hoes, two shovel nosings, a scythe blade, and an iron plowshare. Fishing and oystering were indicated by boat and fish hooks, while two axes, a forming chisel, and a saw blade fragment testified to the importance of woodworking in the life of the 17th-century planter.

*Right: Chinoiserie-decorated English delftware basin, excavated from a 1650-80 context at River Creek. Painted in blue, the motif copies Chinese porcelain of the transitional period between the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties.*



The documentary record substantiates the archaeologically derived inference that Humphrey Tompkins was a small-time planter of lower middle class status. Hannah Tompkins' deed of gift dated 1674, for example, contained no mention of owning slaves or servants, a definite indication of modest economic circumstances. Samuel Tompkins, who inherited the plantation, evidently did little to improve his lot, for an appraisal of his estate in 1702 described virtually all the furnishings as old, again made no reference to slaves or servants, and valued his total estate at some fifty-eight pounds sterling, a rather paltry amount for that time. In sum, the artifactual, architectural, and documentary evidence all point to the same conclusion, that Humphrey Tompkins was at the short end of the socio-economic scale.

Less than a quarter mile away, in an era of Poquoson now called River Creek, Richard Trotter established himself about the same time as his neighbor Humphrey Tompkins. The tract originally may have been part of a land grant made to Augustine Warner in 1635. By the mid-1640s River Creek was acquired by Thomas Trotter, father of Richard, and it remained in his family until the turn of the century, when it was willed to a relative, Richard Dixon.

Once again, imminent destruction of this important site was brought to the attention of the VHLC by Hugh Wornom in 1979. After consulting with owner Bill J. Kaoudis, archaeologists surveyed the property and uncovered a large trash pit. The plow-zone layer was removed mechanically from the surrounding area, exposing a second trash pit along with a series of ditches enclosing two large post buildings. The post buildings represented domestic structures of two different periods, the later building having been built over one end of the earlier one.

The early structure, which measured 20' x 36', contained a large feature that may have been a storage pit, and also had evidence of a wood-and-clay chimney. This building probably dates to the second quarter of the 17th century, and the later dwelling to the third quarter, during Richard Trotter's tenure. The Trotter structure, approximately 20' x 34', was architecturally more sophisticated. It contained the most strikingly complete remains of a wood-and-clay chimney yet found in Virginia. Along the eastern gable of the building lay a pad of orange clay eleven feet long and four feet wide, with a patch of scorched clay in the center. At each corner of the pad were holes for principal posts. Across the back were four less substantial posts, while two light studs had been placed at each end. Additionally, there was evidence that each exterior corner post had been replaced at least three times during the life of the chimney. Although wood and clay, or "Welsh," chimneys are believed by archaeologists and architectural historians to have been common features of many 17th-century Virginia dwellings, the materials of which the chimneys were constructed rarely survived. Consequently, details of size, carpentry, or placement of the chimneys are virtually unknown. The River Creek find, therefore, can provide scholars with many missing answers.

One might be tempted to assume that post buildings, constructed from materials less expensive than those employed in brick structures, were built only by individuals of lesser means. This does not appear to be true during the 17th century, however. Such prominent men as Captain Thomas Pettus and former North Carolina Governor William Drummond lived in post buildings in James City County at the same time the unprepossessing Humphrey Tompkins inhabited a house of similar construction. Consequently one needs to look beyond architectural remains for clues to social position and wealth. Artifact assemblages from associated trash pits are useful in this pursuit.

In contrast to the finds from Bennett Farm, a 16' x 10' pit at River Creek contained no coarsewares. Rather it yielded elaborately painted delftwares (including a magnificently decorated basin), imported Raeren and Westerwald jugs, a brass tobacco box, and a glass tumbler—all suggesting that Trotter was a man of substantial means.

A 1706 probate inventory of the possessions of Richard Dixon, who inherited virtually the entire Trotter estate in 1700, records that Dixon owned nine slaves and had a total worth of some 400 pounds sterling. Though this may not all have come from the Trotter holdings, it is not unreasonable to use this document as a crude measure of Trotter's economic status. It would place him among the 20% of wealthiest men in York County. In addition, other documents indicating positions held and servants owned by Richard Trotter clearly show him to be more influential and to possess greater resources than Tompkins.

On April 26, 1979 Poquoson celebrated the 248th anniversary of its founding by dedicating an historical marker and opening an archaeological museum in the Poquoson Public Library. Inspired by the Charles River Parish, particularly officers Mrs. John Dressler and Mrs. Charles Phillips, the museum displays artifacts and documents from both Bennett Farm and River Creek in a case donated by James C. Moore. The VHLC excavations at Poquoson are an outstanding example of cooperative effort between a community and a state agency to preserve and interpret the cultural heritage of the community for the benefit of all citizens.

Nicholas Lucchetti  
Senior Historical Archaeologist



# Archaeology in Southwest Virginia: VHLC Findings Provide New Data on Late Prehistoric Settlement

In November 1979 the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission was notified by members of the Wolf Hills Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia that an important late prehistoric site in Russell County (44RU7) was threatened by housing development. The location of 44RU7 had been formally recorded in 1963 and a brief description subsequently published in C. G. Holland's *Archaeological Survey of Southwest Virginia*. Holland described the site as an aboriginal village on a "slope northwest of Mountain Creek." Recorded artifacts and archaeological remains included shell and limestone tempered ceramics, chert projectile points, a fenestrated shell gorget with an incised rattlesnake design, and numerous human burials. These traces of past human activity suggested a Late Woodland Period site with a probable occupation date of sometime between A.D. 1000 and A.D. 1650.

Of immediate concern was the installation of a private landowner's sewage drainfield. VHLC archaeologists responded quickly by organizing an intensive field examination to evaluate the extent of past impacts and the potential disturbance of future development. Construction had already cut through a central portion of the site, exposing five human burials, four fire hearths outlined by burnt-orange clays, many postmolds indicating substantial building activity, and other cultural features.

The VHLC's field examination was designed to avoid extensive salvage excavation, which is a dangerous crisis response that conscientious cultural resource management strives to circumvent whenever possible. Although parts of 44RU7 were imminently threatened, and other portions might be impacted in the future, it was considered imprudent to excavate too much too soon. Therefore, the primary

objectives of the field examination were to record all cultural features exposed in the profiles of drainfield trenches, to determine the spatial limits of the site, and to map these important data accurately so the effect of future impacts could be carefully evaluated. Willing cooperation of the private landowner and the assistance of members of the Wolf Hills Chapter greatly facilitated achievement of these objectives.

The particular remains at 44RU7 consumed only part of the VHLC's interest, however, for the significance of a site emerges when it is considered within a broad regional context. Both state and federal historic preservation laws make clear the VHLC's responsibility for protecting and understanding cultural manifestations of the historic and prehistoric periods within a regional context. Toward this end the VHLC maintains a comprehensive statewide inventory of archaeological resources which compiles specific data that can be used to understand the evolution of cultural systems and to suggest how events at any one site affected the evolution of these systems. When the VHLC began its investigation of 44RU7, therefore, the larger region of which it is a part, Southwest Virginia, could not be ignored.

Southwest Virginia is an area of unsurpassed natural beauty. The Blue Ridge Mountains, the rugged Appalachian Highlands, and the Appalachian Plateau are carved by the extensive and often intertwining drainages of the New, Holston, Clinch, and Powell rivers. This mountainous topography is blanketed by a lush environment shaped both by regular seasonal changes and dramatic changes in elevation.

Equally spectacular is the rich and diverse archaeological record of the region. Man settled Southwest Virginia early, although sporadically, during what is known as the Paleo-Indian Period (possi-

*View from the west of archaeologist mapping locations of cultural features exposed in the walls of the drainfield trenches.*



*View from the north showing the mountainous context of 44RU7 and the developing community of trailer homes.*

bly as early as 10,000 B.C.). Evidence of more intensive Archaic Period occupations can be dated to approximately 8000 B.C., when many remote valleys and adjacent uplands were inhabited by hunter-gatherers exploiting the area's vast resources of edible plants and animals. From 8000 B.C. until just prior to European settlement, Southwest Virginia supported many aboriginal groups and two major cultural traditions: the Archaic, dating from ca. 8000-1000 B.C., and the Woodland, dating from ca. 1000 B.C.—A.D. 1650. Material remains from the region indicate that the indigenous populations interacted with neighboring cultures in adjacent areas of what is now central Virginia, northern and western North Carolina, Tennessee, western Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio, and southwestern Pennsylvania.

Despite the significance of these archaeological resources, archaeologists paid limited attention to Southwest Virginia until fairly recently. Early investigations included Lucien Carr's 1877 exploration of a mound in Lee County for Harvard University's Peabody Museum and limited surveys in 1914 and 1915 by Robert Wainwright, a volunteer for the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology. In 1940 Waldo Wedel of the National Museum of Natural History completed a partial reconnaissance of Saltville, Virginia. A few other works touched briefly on the archaeological resources of the area, but it was not until the summers of 1963 and 1964 that the region as a whole was studied systematically by C. G. Holland for the Smithsonian Institution.

One explanation for the apparent lack of scientific interest in the area was the early preoccupation of American archaeology with the monumental remains of the "Mound builders," of which Virginia has few examples. Another obstacle to archaeological inquiry was the fact that Southwest Virginia was reportedly uninhabited at the time of European contact in 1671. Lacking historical knowledge of the people responsible for leaving the region littered with archaeological material, archaeologists could not apply the Direct-Historical Approach, a methodology based on the examination of artifact assemblages attributable to aboriginal groups known through, and accurately located by, historical records. With no reference point for Southwest Virginia firmly grounded in documented sources, the area's prehistory lay neglected.

Over the last twenty years, however, interest in the Mound builders has waned, and the continuing refinement of radiocarbon dating has diminished the primacy of the Direct-Historical Approach. Cultures

known only through their material remains can now be ordered chronologically without historical reference points. As a result, archaeological investigation in Southwest Virginia has greatly accelerated since Holland's regional survey. Subsequently, important sites in Montgomery and Russell Counties were excavated under the auspices of the Virginia State Library and archaeologist Joseph Benthall, and intensive salvage excavations were undertaken in the area under the supervision of Col. Howard MacCord. More recently, effective implementation of state and federal historic preservation laws has provided a major impetus for archaeological work throughout the region. Many contract surveys, the appointment of professional archaeologists to the staff of the United States Forest Service monitoring the Jefferson National Forest, and the work of a VHLC Regional Preservation Office at Emory and Henry College have resulted directly from this legislation. An important consequence of all these investigations has been the development of a substantial data base for the region.

In light of information gleaned from other sites in Southwest Virginia, one of the most important questions posed by the VHLC archaeologists concerned the unexpected location of 44RU7. Investigation was directed at discovering whether the site had been a densely occupied late prehistoric village—a type of site traditionally interpreted as a largely agricultural community inhabited by groups of between 100-400 individuals—or whether it had been a less densely settled hamlet repeatedly occupied by small groups over several hundreds of years. The type of site most commonly and intensively investigated within the region has been the large agricultural community. This preoccupation with large agricultural sites has supported a belief that late prehistoric settlements were almost exclusively located on the extensive floodplains of major rivers. 44RU7, however, is situated along a sloping valley floor, over 600 feet from its nearest reliable water source, the confluence of two small perennial streams that form the headwaters of the North Fork of the Holston River. VHLC archaeologists first considered the possibility that the site was not the location of a village, but of a smaller hamlet less dependent upon agriculture than a village.

Investigation of site size and feature density revealed, however, that the site is relatively large, measuring 340-400 feet in diameter, and that its features, while dense, do not often intrude into one another. By examining the degree of artifact homogeneity across the site, VHLC archaeologists dis-

covered a stylistically similar assemblage. A dark black-brown midden soil was spread unevenly across the entire site. All these observations suggested that the settlement was intensive but short-lived, and that the site did, in fact, function as a village.

These findings at 44RU7 suggest that the traditional model emphasizing agricultural potential as the primary determining factor in late prehistoric settlement needs to be modified since other variables also appear to have conditioned the selection of village locations to a significant degree. It is possible, for instance, that at the time 44RU7 was settled all the more suitable agricultural locations were already inhabited. Growing populations may have pushed new settlements into areas not well suited to exploitation by the traditional farming technologies. While theories of population growth and pressure are ever-popular within anthropological circles as explanations for a variety of phenomena, from technological innovation to cultural migrations, they must always be rigorously demonstrated. A testable population pressure theory based on 44RU7 might be advanced to suggest that prehistoric groups living in more densely populated areas along the Tennessee and New Rivers continued to grow, forcing expansion into the more isolated areas of Southwest Virginia.

An alternative explanation might be found by examining the site's location in relation to the regional topography, which is dominated by northeast-to-southwest-trending mountains that place severe restrictions on overland travel. In general, the major rivers have provided the least obstructed transportation routes. It is not surprising, therefore, that many archaeological sites are found along their banks. Occasionally, however, erosional forces have also

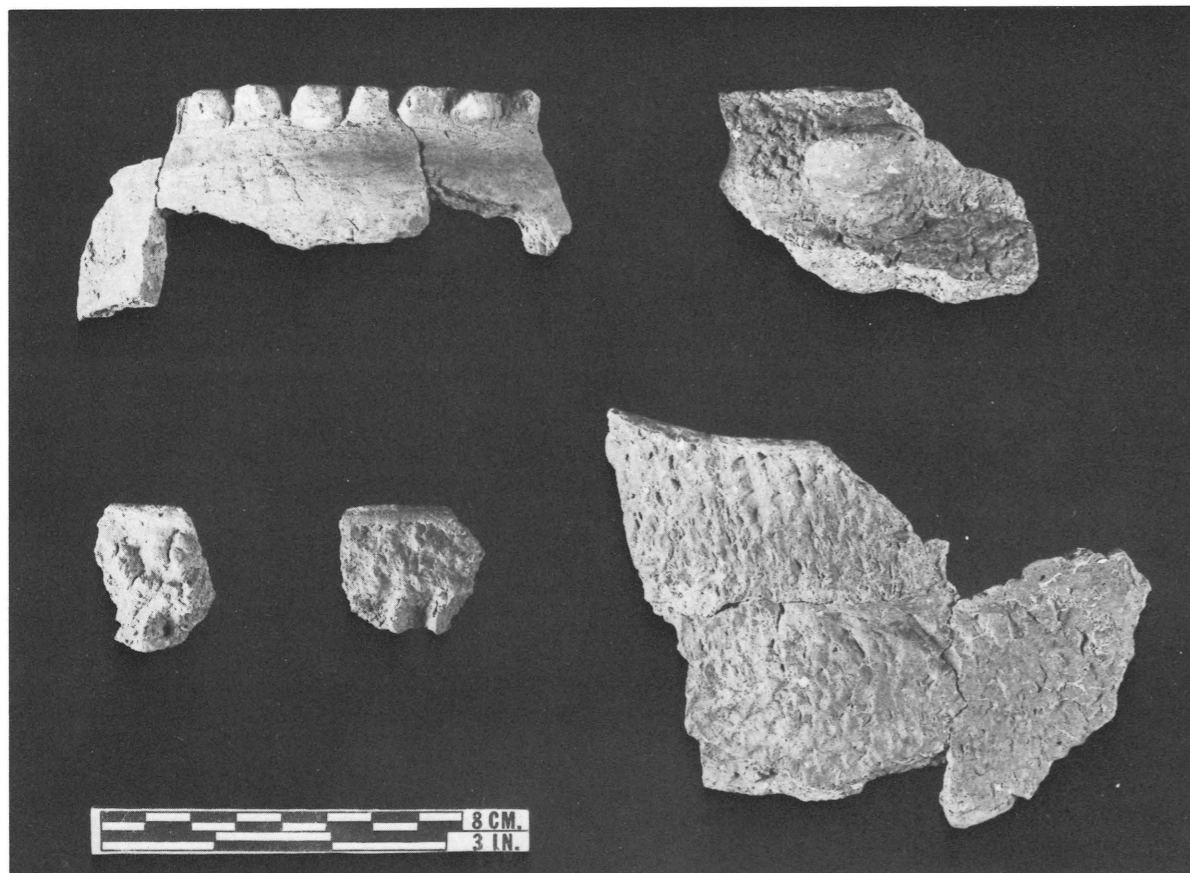
formed gaps, facilitating travel through the mountains and between the major river valleys. 44RU7's location at the mouth of such a gap is undoubtedly significant. The site probably served as a strategic link in a regional network of trade or communication.

Data from one site alone cannot provide adequate explanations for site selection, demonstrate changes in population, or delineate regional trade or communication networks. A regional perspective is needed to provide archaeologists the opportunity to step aside momentarily from past cultures' clutter and to explore the dynamics of how and why people have changed. Artifacts, often the dominating passion of archaeology, are only tools to be used in understanding the movements and nature of the real subject matter: the people who produced them, and mankind in general. Only by observing the intricate regional relationships among artifacts, "ecofacts," and attributes of the natural environment can archaeologists sometimes catch a rare glimpse of the structure and meaning of man's persistence.

The VHLC's work at 44RU7 has continued nearly two decades of sustained archaeological investigation of Southwest Virginia. The effort is one in which concerned, properly trained amateurs working through the Archaeological Society of Virginia have played an indispensable role. In the southwestern part of the state an important and fruitful amateur-professional relationship has developed which will continue to insure that the valuable archaeological resources of the region are properly monitored, preserved, and interpreted.

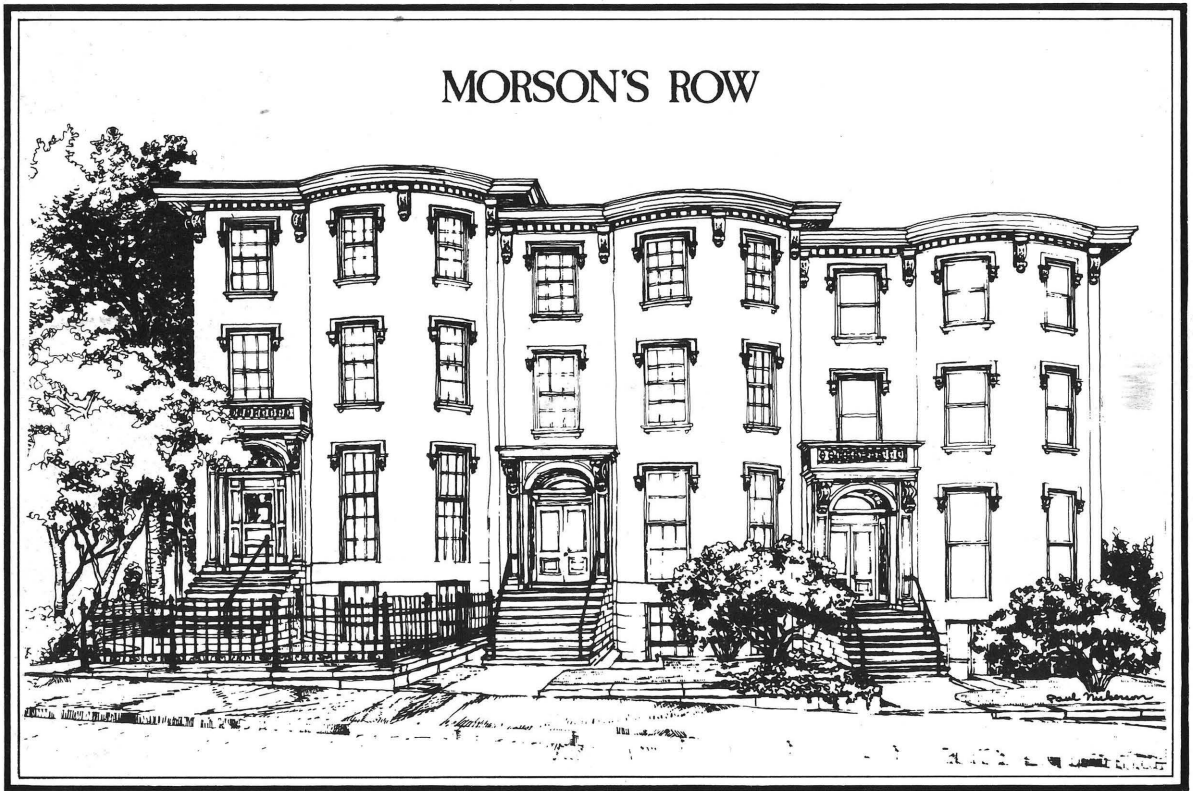
Keith Bott  
Former VHLC Archaeologist

*Shell tempered ceramics displaying attributes important in tracing the site's cultural affiliations with surrounding regions as well as its indigenous development.*



# Notes on Virginia

MORSON'S ROW



**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**

Morson's Row  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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