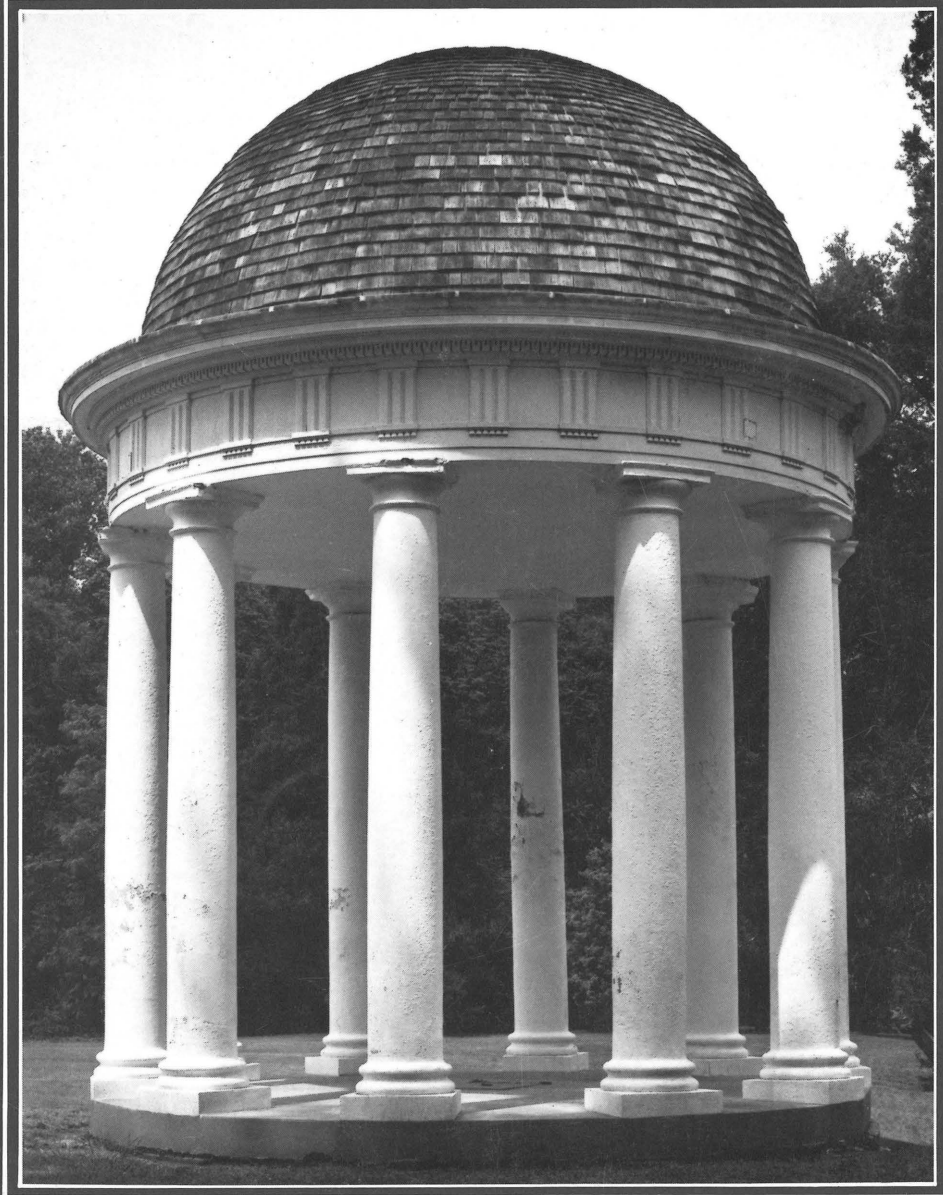


# Notes on Virginia

Number 30

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks

Spring, 1987



Department of Conservation and Historic Resources

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Number 30

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## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Board Receives Six Easement Donations</i>        | 3  |
| <i>Homes of the Constitutional Era</i>              | 6  |
| <i>The Virginia Landmarks Register</i>              | 22 |
| <i>Norfolk Preservation</i>                         | 30 |
| <i>Certified Historic Rehabilitations</i>           | 32 |
| <i>Main Street Program Update</i>                   | 35 |
| <i>Four Local Governments Attain CLG Standing</i>   | 37 |
| <i>Jordan's Point, Prince George County</i>         | 38 |
| <i>Additional State Grant Awards</i>                | 40 |
| <i>DHL Announces Survey Subgrants</i>               | 40 |
| <i>Survey of State-owned Properties</i>             | 42 |
| <i>Landmarks and Review Boards Visit Winchester</i> | 44 |



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Division of Historic Landmarks

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*Notes* is edited by Margaret T. Peters, Division of Historic Landmarks  
and designed and prepared for publication by  
Katie M. Roeper, Office of Graphic Communications, Virginia Department of General Services.  
All photographs are from the DHL archives, except where noted.

## Virginia Historic Landmarks Board Approves New and Replacement Markers

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Board has approved nine new historical markers and six replacement markers. The new markers are: **Lottie Moon (SM-2)** in Nottoway County; **Smoky Ordinary (SN-61)** in Brunswick County; **Birthplace of General Jubal Early (A-95)**, **Carolina Road (A-96)** and **The Washington Iron Works (A-97)** in Franklin County; **Camp John J. Pershing, CCC CAMP 1370-2386 (KG-14)** in Giles County; **Jamestown Ferry (K-301)** in Surry County; **First Court for Tazewell County (X-19)** in Tazewell County; and **Colonel John Singleton Mosby (B-16)** in Frederick County.

Replacement markers approved with new texts include **Bellona Arsenal (O-40)** and **Chesterfield Courthouse (S-7)** in Chesterfield County; **Woodberry Forest School (F-24)** in Orange County; **Urbanna Creek (OC-40)** in Middlesex County; **Appomattox Court House—New and Old (K-158)** in Appomattox County; **John Daniel's Home (K-142)** in Lynchburg; and **Action at Stephenson's Depot (A-1)** in Frederick County. All of these markers have been funded from private sources.

The Department of Conservation and Historic Resources will fund the replacement of five historical markers missing from the state's system of historical signs. Markers approved for replacement by the DCHR include **Booker T. Washington Birthplace, (KP-4)** in Franklin County; **Founder of Presbyterianism (WY-15)** in Accomack County; **Kingsmill (K-47)** in James City County; **Pound Gap, (XP-7)** in Wise County; and **Dismal Swamp (K-253)** in Suffolk.

## Personnel

Bill Crosby has joined the Division as staff architect with responsibility for providing technical assistance to owners of historic properties. Bill brings with him experience with several architectural firms as well as with the state historic preservation office in Kentucky. A native of Alabama, Bill holds a degree in architecture from the University of Kentucky.

Beth Hoge has joined the staff of the Division as archivist. Her responsibilities will include supervision of the Division's archives and library. Beth is a recent graduate of the preservation program at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. She served an internship with the Division in 1985-86.

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## New State Archaeologist Appointed

Catherine Slusser has been appointed Virginia's new State Archaeologist. Ms. Slusser is a native Virginian who holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary. She earned her master's degree in anthropology from Eastern New Mexico University and her doctorate in anthropology from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Prior to joining the Division of Historic Landmarks' staff July 1, she served for four years as Chief Archaeologist for the District of Columbia. She has also taught anthropology at various educational institutions and has worked as a consultant. She has done archaeological field work in New York, New Mexico, Virginia, and Morocco.

In her new position Ms. Slusser will be working with Division staff and the archaeological community to define and pursue significant research interests in Virginia archaeology. The post also oversees management of the State's growing collection of archaeological artifacts, as well as efforts to salvage important sites facing destruction.

## Director Appoints New State Review Board Member

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director of the Division of Historic Landmarks, has appointed Michael B. Barber to the State Review Board. Mr. Barber is a forest archaeologist with the Jefferson National Forest. He earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. in Sociology and Anthropology from Kent State University. He is presently working on his doctorate at the University of Virginia. Mr. Barber is president of the Council of Virginia Archaeologists, the organization for professional archaeologists in Virginia.

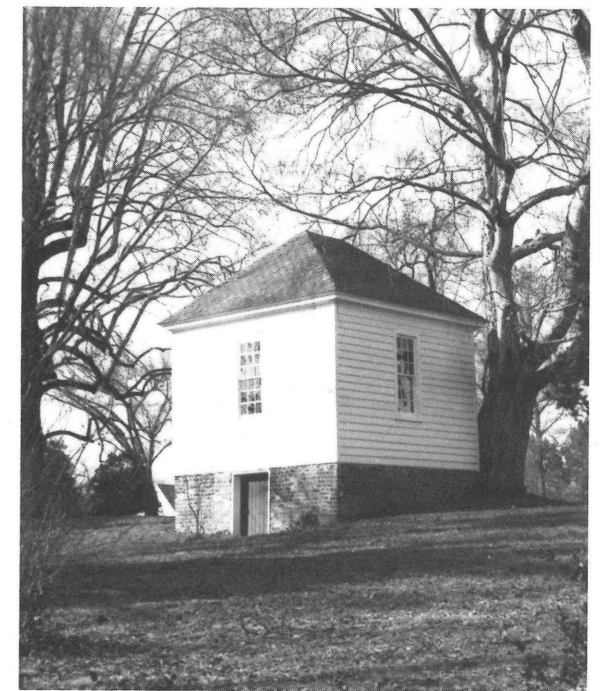
## Cover Photograph

Much attention has been focused in this year of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution on Montpelier, home of James Madison. The cover of this issue, which has devoted a large section to homes of Virginia statesmen associated with the formulation, consideration, and ratification of the Constitution (beginning on page 6), shows the familiar neoclassical domed garden temple at Montpelier. The graceful structure was built between 1809 and 1812 by James Dinsmore and John Neilson, master builders who worked for both Madison and his close friend, Thomas Jefferson. Credit: Dennis McWaters, 1987.

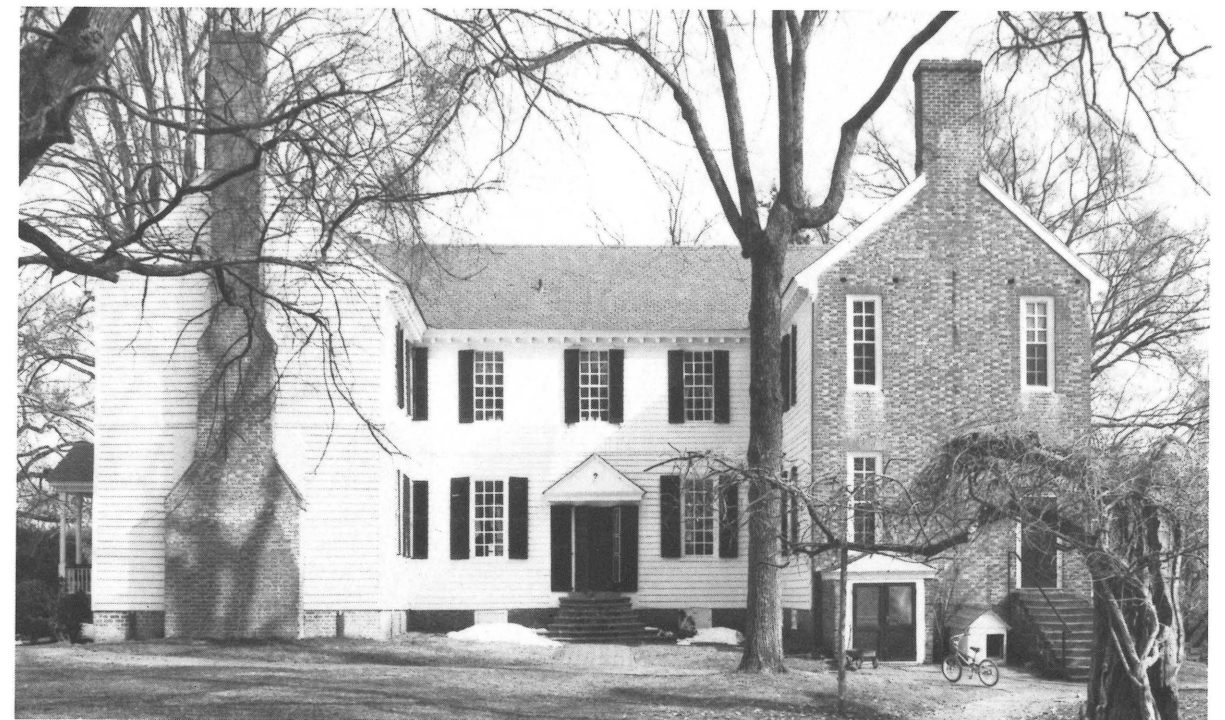
# Virginia Historic Landmarks Board Receives Six New Easement Donations

Since the publication of *Notes* 29 (Fall, 1986), the Virginia Historic Landmarks Board has accepted donations of easements on six historic properties: Tuckahoe in Goochland County, Pine Slash in Hanover County, Pembroke in the City of Virginia Beach, the Dulany-Joynt House and the Powell-Ablard House in the Alexandria Historic District, and Townfield in the Port Royal Historic District of Caroline County. The new properties entered into the easement program illustrate the variety of places whose preservation has been guaranteed by these legal covenants. They range from a plantation complex to a vernacular cottage to town houses. The easements are an important demonstration of cooperation between the state and private property owners to protect Virginia's historic resources.

Tuckahoe is among the most well known historic properties to be placed under easement with the Commonwealth. The plantation, established in the early 18th century by the Randolph family, was the first property entered into the Virginia Landmarks Register, in 1968. It subsequently was named a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. The distinctive H-shaped plantation dwelling is noted for its rich interior carving and extensive



Schoolhouse at Tuckahoe, Goochland County.



Tuckahoe, Goochland County.

paneling. The plantation also possesses one of the state's most complete set of original outbuildings. Thomas Jefferson was tutored along with his Randolph cousins in Tuckahoe's tiny schoolhouse. The easement covers the house and its interior woodwork, the outbuildings, and 240 acres of the plantation including over a mile of frontage along the James River. The donors are Mrs. William Taliaferro Thompson, Jr. and her three children: William Taliaferro Thompson III, Addison Baker Thompson, and Mrs. William Andrew Krusen, Jr. The easement was donated jointly to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Board and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, marking the first time the state has joined with the trust in a preservation easement.

The Pine Slash easement was donated by Mr. and Mrs. William T. Thomas and provides protection of a unique example of colonial Virginia vernacular architecture, the only recorded survival of vertical plank construction. Known locally as the "Honeymoon Cottage", the dwelling is where Patrick Henry first lived following his marriage to Sarah Shelton. The easement takes in two acres of the Pine Slash farm and includes an early 19th-century gambrel-roof farmhouse. Additional information on the property can be found in the Virginia Landmarks Register section of this issue of *Notes*. (p. 26.)

The Pembroke easement was donated by the Princess Anne County-Virginia Beach Historical Society following its decision to sell the property to a

private party who agreed to undertake the restoration of the interior for office use. The society obtained title to the house and a small parcel of land in 1963 when the surrounding farm was developed into the Pembroke subdivision. The exterior was restored in the mid 1970s. The manor house was erected in 1764 for Capt. Jonathan Saunders and is a classic example of Virginia Georgian architecture.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Joynt donated the easement on their home at 601 Duke Street in the Alexandria Historic District with the Historic Alexandria Foundation serving as co-grantee. One of the state's foremost examples of Georgian town-house architecture, the Dulany-Joynt House is famed for its boldly detailed woodwork. The house was built in 1783 for Benjamin Dulany, a friend of George Washington, whom he entertained there. The easement specifically protects the original woodwork against any alteration and also extends to the garden at the side of the house, a conspicuous bit of open space in the historic district. In acknowledging the donation, Governor Baliles stated, "Alexandria is among the nation's most historic cities, and it is encouraging to know that one of its leading architectural landmarks now has its preservation guaranteed."

The easement on the Powell-Ablard House at 229 South Pitt Street in the Alexandria Historic District was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Ablard who also named the Historic Alexandria Foundation as a co-grantee. The house is typical of the larger

Greek Revival town houses built in Alexandria in the second quarter of the 19th century, having a three-story, double-parlor front section and a two-story service ell. The easement also covers a garden lot to the side, one of the few such open spaces to be preserved in this section of the historic district. The property is located directly across Pitt Street from Latrobe's St. Paul's Church and is an important element of the setting of this architectural landmark.

The easement on Townfield, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Long IV, protects the architectural fabric and riverside setting of one of the chief landmarks of the tiny colonial port town of Port Royal. The rambling house has three distinct sections. The earliest, dating from the mid-18th century, was built for Robert Gilchrist, a merchant. The story-and-a-half dwelling was extended in the late 18th century and also received then the distinctive "Port Royal porch", an enclosed projection on the facade. A two-story Greek Revival wing was added in 1840. The house is currently undergoing an extensive restoration. The property, located at the northeast corner of the historic district, includes approximately two acres and 155 feet of frontage on the Rappahannock River.

Additional information on the state's preservation easement program is available from Calder Loth at the Division of Historic Landmarks office, telephone number (804) 786-3143.



*Powell-Ablard House, 229 South Pitt Street, Alexandria.*



*Pine Slash, interior, Hanover County.*



*Pembroke, Virginia Beach. Credit: Richard Cheek*



*Dulany-Joynt House, exterior, Alexandria. Credit: Alexandria Library*



*Dulany-Joynt House, Parlor, Alexandria.*



*Townfield, Port Royal, Caroline County.*

# Homes of the Constitutional Era

## Essays in Preservation

To mark the bicentennial year of the framing of the United States Constitution, NOTES ON VIRGINIA is focusing this issue on houses associated with the Virginians who played key roles in the creation, ratification, and implementation of that momentous document.

The essays that follow are designed to illustrate two aspects of those homes that are of peculiar interest to preservationists: the physical restoration of particular segments of the selected shrines and the interpretation of those houses to the public.

Houses were selected to illustrate different types of preservation problems and challenges. At the top of the list, is MONTPELIER, home of the "Father of the Constitution," James Madison, and recently acquired property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The largest question facing those entrusted with the care of this shrine is how best to incorporate the changes made to Montpelier over its long history.

MONTICELLO, home to Thomas Jefferson who, although not directly involved with the drafting of the Constitution was a significant philosophical and political presence in Philadelphia, has embarked upon a fascinating archaeological project as well as important architectural endeavors to interpret better its builder's genius. STRATFORD HALL was home to the Lees, a family whose interest in government and dedication to public service spanned the Revolutionary period to the ratification of the Constitution. Richard Henry Lee opposed the Constitution without a Bill of Rights while his brother, Francis Lightfoot Lee, believed the document hammered out in Philadelphia was the best that

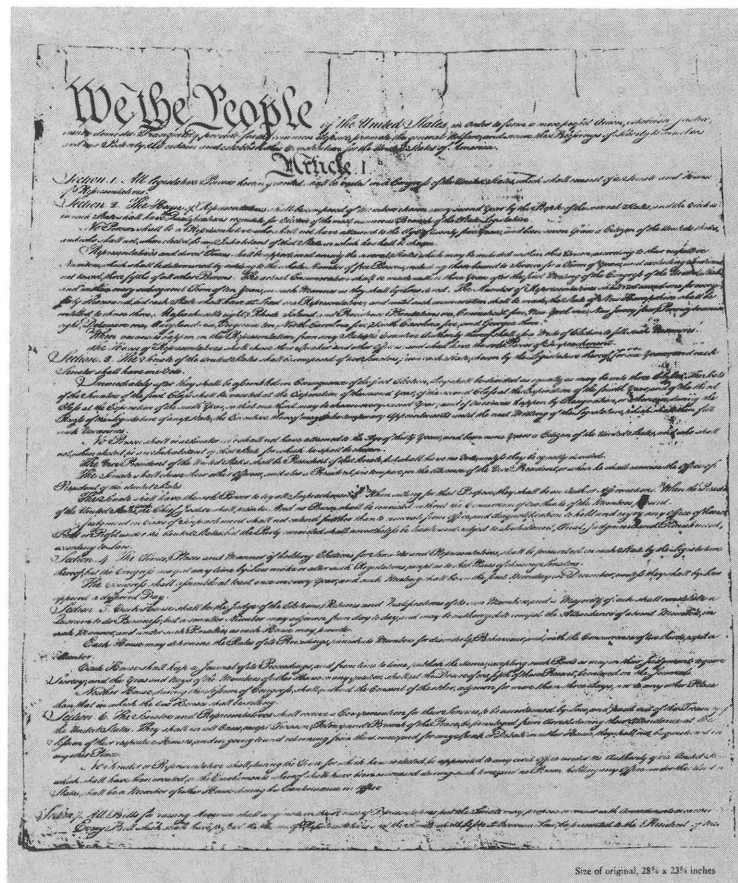
could be obtained. MOUNT VERNON, probably the most famous "home," concentrates here on the portion of the estate which engaged the greatest attention of its master during the Constitutional era—its magnificent landscaping. GUNSTON HALL, home of George Mason, an ardent opponent of the Constitution, who was most responsible for the Bill of Rights, is undergoing some of the most complex and interesting research with regard to the restoration of its interior. James Monroe spent a large part of his active political life at ASH LAWN-HIGHLAND, a house whose interpretation includes presentations on both 18th- and 19th century life.

Although Monroe attended the 1786 Annapolis Convention, he failed to win election to the Philadelphia gathering. Although, as a strong advocate of States Rights, he at first opposed the adaptation of the Constitution, he fully supported it following ratification. He ably served both Washington and Jefferson as envoy to France for the fledgling nation and later became its fifth president.

Although RED HILL was not Patrick Henry's home during the framing of the Constitution in 1787, it was his home when he was deeply involved in

one of the young nation's earliest challenges to its sovereignty. Because Red Hill represents a quite different problem of preservation and interpretation, the editor chooses to include it in this assemblage of historical shrines.

The editor wishes to thank the authors of these essays. It is our hope that the long hours and effort expended by the stewards of these nationally significant shrines will both inspire and inform preservationists statewide.



Size of original, 25 1/4 x 23 1/4 inches

## Montpelier

In October, 1984, when the National Trust for Historic Preservation acquired MONTPELIER, the former home of James and Dolley Madison, the major questions facing the organization revolved around "what to do with the mansion?" Built by the President's father around 1755-1760, the mansion has changed a great deal over time. It was enlarged in 1797 to accommodate both the senior and junior Madisons. One-story wings were added in 1809 at the beginning of Madison's presidency, and in 1903 William du Pont, Sr. more than doubled the size of the house.

Today, the exterior speaks emphatically of the du Pont era with its copper roof and extensive additions. The interior, upon closer examination, contains much of the Madison fabric. Rather than tear down the earlier additions, the du Ponts chose rather to expand the Madison dwelling up and back. What no longer exists are the Madison staircases, some flooring, wall coverings (assuming there were any), and all obvious evidence of how the house was partitioned during James Madison's tenure.

The Trust has countered the key questions "Are you going to restore the house back to its Madison era appearance?" by asking itself a series of critical questions:

—What is known about the Madison house?

A few prints exist of the house after the 1809 wings were added. Travelers' accounts from the Madison period reveal much about daily life at Montpelier, and some specific descriptions of the first floor of the house are extant. Fire insurance policies of the Mutual Assurance Society provide exterior dimensions. But the real answer, is "not much . . .



A 1917 photograph of Montpelier taken by R. W. Holsinger, Charlottesville.



Montpelier as it appears today. Credit: William Edmund Barrett

yet." To understand fully the Madison house and the changes over time will require several years of examination and research and many dollars.

—Where do you start on such a project?

Because there were no known plans of the house, the first step was to produce measured drawings of the 33,000-square foot house. Fortunately, money was found for this project, and the drawings will serve as a primary tool for all future architectural research. The Trust recently received a grant from the Jessie Ball du Pont Fund which will support the next project—the Historic Structures report. During this phase, all of the mansion's surfaces will be assessed and recorded. Paint will be analyzed, and questions arising from the assessment will be identified.

The next phase, as yet unfunded, promises to be exciting. Walls will be opened to assist in answering questions raised during the Historic Structures report; plaster will be peeled back to reveal former exterior walls; former Madison doorways will be opened and the house "mined" for evidence of Madison partitions.

Archival research, supporting the architectural work, will proceed simultaneously. Six owners held title to Montpelier between the Madisons and the du Ponts, and much should be learned from these records. The Library of Congress has additional travelers' accounts not yet examined, and private collections with Madisoniana may come to light.

Archaeology will be a critical research component. The senior Madison used an exterior kitchen, and numerous dependencies are mentioned in insurance records. The site of the 1729 house built by James Madison's grandparents has yet to be discovered.

—The oft-asked question is, once the research is done, will the Trust remove the du Pont additions and recreate a Madison house?

It is unlikely. The Trust's approach is that there is an architectural integrity to the house as it now exists. The interior spaces associated with the Madisons can be furnished and interpreted without destroying the du Pont additions. The Trust will expose some of the Madison architectural fabric for visitors to examine.

After addressing the question of restoration, the Trust had to decide when and if to open the property for tours. The mansion is not only large and complex, it is not in good cosmetic condition. Until the Historic Structures report is completed, even the faded and peeling wallpaper can not be replaced.

The Trust decided that, for many visitors, seeing the house and learning of the approach to the mansion's preservation would be of interest, especially during the bicentennial anniversary of the Constitu-

tion. An interpretive tour has been developed which juxtaposes Madison history with du Pont structures. For instance, when visitors on the shuttle bus from the main entrance pass the du Pont greenhouses, they learn of the Madisons' great interest in horticulture and botany. In the du Pont room (originally the Madison dining room) they learn about the re-known Madison hospitality.

The property opened for daily tours on March 16 of this year. As the National Trust uncovers Montpelier's long and fascinating history, the tours will be altered to incorporate new information. The hope is that Montpelier will become an effective classroom for preservation philosophy of the late 20th century. Madison and his magnificent home will in time emerge from the long shadow of his close friend Thomas Jefferson and Monticello.

Dory Twitchell  
Montpelier



Interior of Montpelier during Marian du Pont Scott's tenure. Credit: William Edmund Barrett



Original panelling and doors in the first floor-north. Credit: William Edmund Barrett



The Montpelier Railroad Station welcomes visitors to James Madison's home.

## Monticello

In the spring of 1786, two American tourists made a pilgrimage to Stratford-upon-Avon. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, on a tour of English landscape gardens, paid a shilling a piece to see the birthplace of William Shakespeare. In the chimney corner of the half-timbered house was a wooden chair, one used, or so they were told, by the bard himself. As Adams confided to his diary, he and Jefferson each cut a "Chip from the chair, according to the Custom."

Although the right to depart with a piece of the collection is no longer included in the price of admission to historic houses, every site hopes the visitor will take home a vivid, if less palpable, souvenir—an indelible image or memorable insight. Monticello, Jefferson's house near Charlottesville, is in a singular position to provide such moments of illumination. Because Jefferson speaks so eloquently through his own unique creation, restoration and interpretation efforts focus on providing what Daniel P. Jordan, Director since 1985, describes as "the best possible picture of the man and his life here." An accurate recreation of Jefferson's environment depends on a commitment to continuing research. During the last ten years Jefferson's own remarkable documentary record has been supplemented by information from two additional sources—paint analysis in the house and archaeology in the landscape.

With major structural restoration of the house completed by the 1950s, attention turned to refining its surface elements. Since 1976, Frank Welsh, an historic paint color consultant, has made a microscopic examination of layers of varied finishes on walls and woodwork. This "above-ground archaeology," as he calls it, made possible the repainting of the Entrance Hall and Dome Room and the restoration of two features of the house in which Jefferson used imitative painting practices; the doors grained to resemble mahogany and the East Portico columns

and entryway painted to resemble stone. In 1981, after the removal of twenty-two coats of white paint, the columns and rusticated front were sand painted. Then more white paint vanished when restoration specialist, H. Andrew Johnson, took the window sashes of the Portico back to their original mahogany.

For those who associate "colonial" architecture with neat white trim, the restored East Front is a dramatic statement. The mahogany sash, in particular, "changes the whole character of the building," says Monticello Architectural Historian, William L. Beiswanger. The dark finish minimizes the sash bars, already thinner than usual, and this accentuates the varied shapes of the openings in Jefferson's design. The elevation "becomes, in effect, an essay on the window."

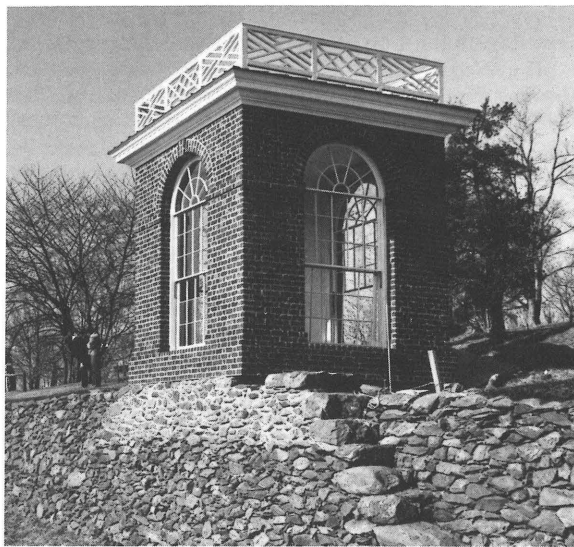
The process of excavation, whether of records or layers of paint or earth, generates an exciting series of chain reactions. At Monticello each discovery created a host of new ones, and each step in the ensuring restoration produced ideas for changing or expanding interpretation. To draw the public's attention to the restored East Portico, the beginning of the guided tour was moved outside the house. Now, six years later, this new location also provides an opportunity to set the stage for the house visit. Here, according to Curator Susan Stein, the guides can "remind the visitor of Jefferson's public achievements and place the house in the context of a plantation with 150 inhabitants."

Far more dramatic change is possible in the landscape, where little of Jefferson's original creation survives. Archaeological excavations since 1979 have clarified Jefferson's many drawings and memoranda, contributing to the restoration of gardens, orchards, vineyards, and paths and roads. Two major features of the vegetable garden illustrate how "the interplay of archaeology and the written word has really worked at Monticello," according to Director of Archaeology, William M. Kelso. This combina-





To create a replication of the original sandstone finish on the East Portico columns, sand was sprayed on to wet paint with a trough and air compressor nozzle. Credit: Frank S. Welsh



Jefferson's garden pavilion after reconstruction in 1984. Credit: W. M. Kelso



Aerial view of Monticello vegetable garden and orchard area, showing fence post and fruit tree holes discovered in archaeological excavations (white dots) Credit: W. M. Kelso

tion was essential to the reconstruction of a 1,000-foot-long stone retaining wall and, in 1984, a neo-classical pavilion overlooking the orchard.

Traces of the wall remained, but excavations and consultation with landscape architect Rudy Favretti revealed a double-tiered form in its higher sections. Says Dr. Kelso, "We could not have reconstructed it without archaeology, without pinpointing its location and uncovering its foundation plan." These discoveries tallied with a page of Jefferson's precise specifications and an 1812 record of laying 7,000 bricks "in temple" and allowed the rebuilding to proceed with unusual confidence.

Restoration of the living landscape features has been the responsibility of Superintendent of Grounds, Peter J. Hatch, who began collecting period plants during a search for varieties that Jefferson himself grew. These activities in turn produced the new Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, which will be both a garden center and an educational resource on the history of plants used in American gardens.

The new focus on landscape restoration, and a

heightened awareness of Jefferson's role as a gardener and landscape designer, have had a further impact on interpretation. Daily garden tours, during the growing season, now take about 20,000 visitors a year through Jefferson's grove, flower, and vegetable gardens, and provide another forum for discussion of agriculture and slave life on the mountain.

Possible recreation of aspects of Jefferson's working plantation will be studied over the next few years, during the development of a comprehensive master plan. Meanwhile, the search continues for new ways to make Jefferson's life visible to both the eye and the imagination and to provide the visitor with an infinitely renewable "Shakespeare's chair." Dr. Jordan, expressing the need to transcend the mere maintenance of the site, says that "we must preserve in order to share what we know of the creative genius of Jefferson, his ideals, and his interests."

Lucia Stanton  
Director of Research  
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation

## Stratford Hall

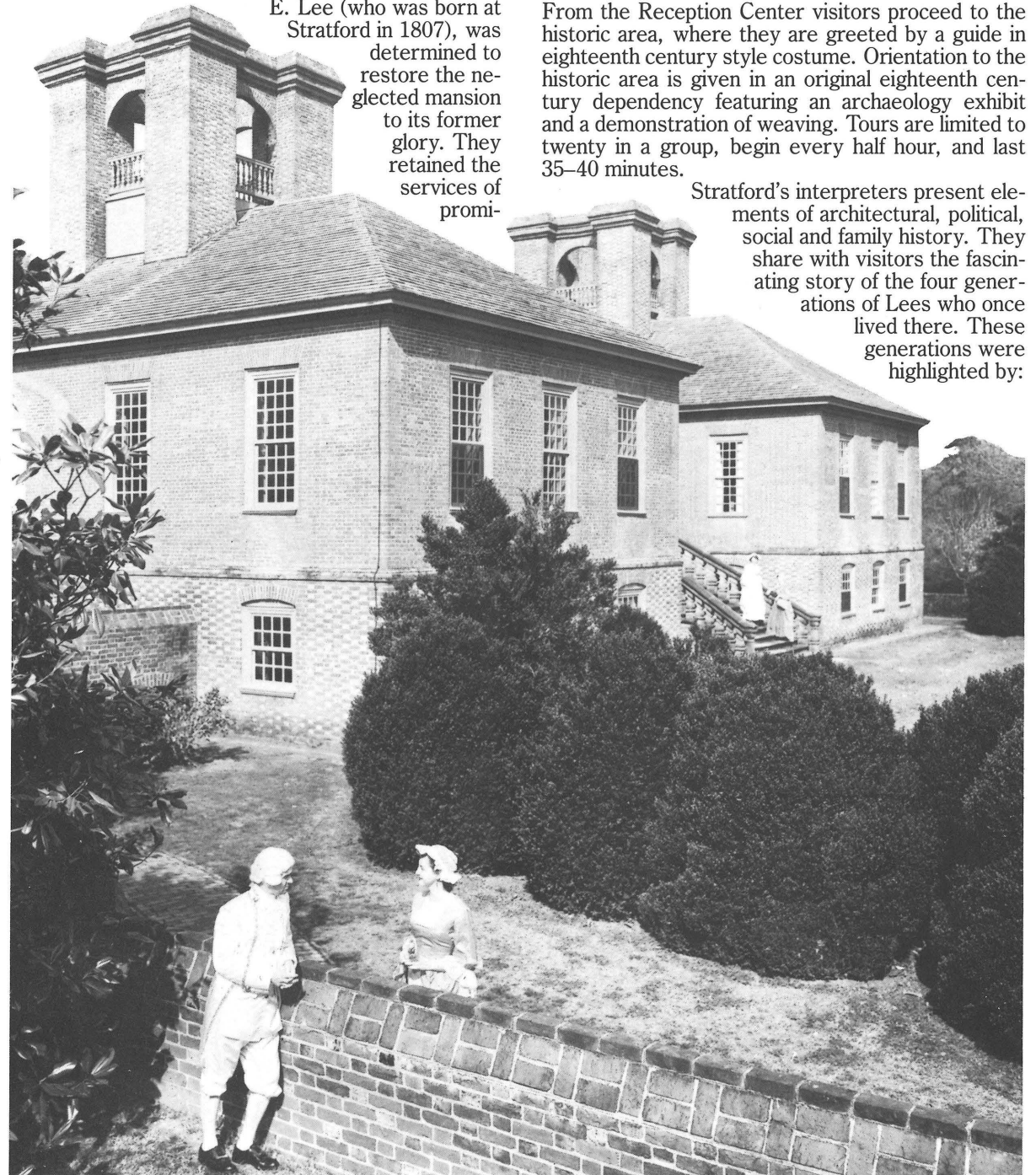
The Great house at Stratford Hall Plantation is a national historic landmark. The home of the Stratford Lees, it is unique in the combination of its H-shaped plan, clustered chimney stacks, and inverted tray-ceilinged great hall. This modified Georgian mansion was completed in the early 1730s by Colonel Thomas Lee, one-time acting Governor of the colony of Virginia and father of a host of active Revolution era patriots. Stratford remained in the Lee family until 1822 and went through a succession of subsequent owners until 1929, when it was purchased by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation (today known as the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association). The Lee Foundation, a stalwart group of ladies dedicated to the memory of General Robert

E. Lee (who was born at Stratford in 1807), was determined to restore the neglected mansion to its former glory. They retained the services of promi-

nent restoration architect, Fiske Kimball, to restore the Great House and its dependencies. Restoration proceeded throughout the 1930s, though the house was dedicated and opened to the public in mid-decade. The restoration of Stratford Hall reflects both colonial and early national styles as the Lees were actively in residence throughout the latter two-thirds of the eighteenth century and into the early years of the nineteenth.

Stratford Hall is open to the public every day of the year except Christmas. Visitors are encouraged to spend at least two hours on the plantation. Tours beginning in the Stetson Reception Center include a viewing of a seventeen-minute introductory slide presentation, examination of a small museum featuring artifacts of the Lee family and an exhibit, "The Stratford Lees and the United States Constitution." From the Reception Center visitors proceed to the historic area, where they are greeted by a guide in eighteenth century style costume. Orientation to the historic area is given in an original eighteenth century dependency featuring an archaeology exhibit and a demonstration of weaving. Tours are limited to twenty in a group, begin every half hour, and last 35-40 minutes.

Stratford's interpreters present elements of architectural, political, social and family history. They share with visitors the fascinating story of the four generations of Lees who once lived there. These generations were highlighted by:



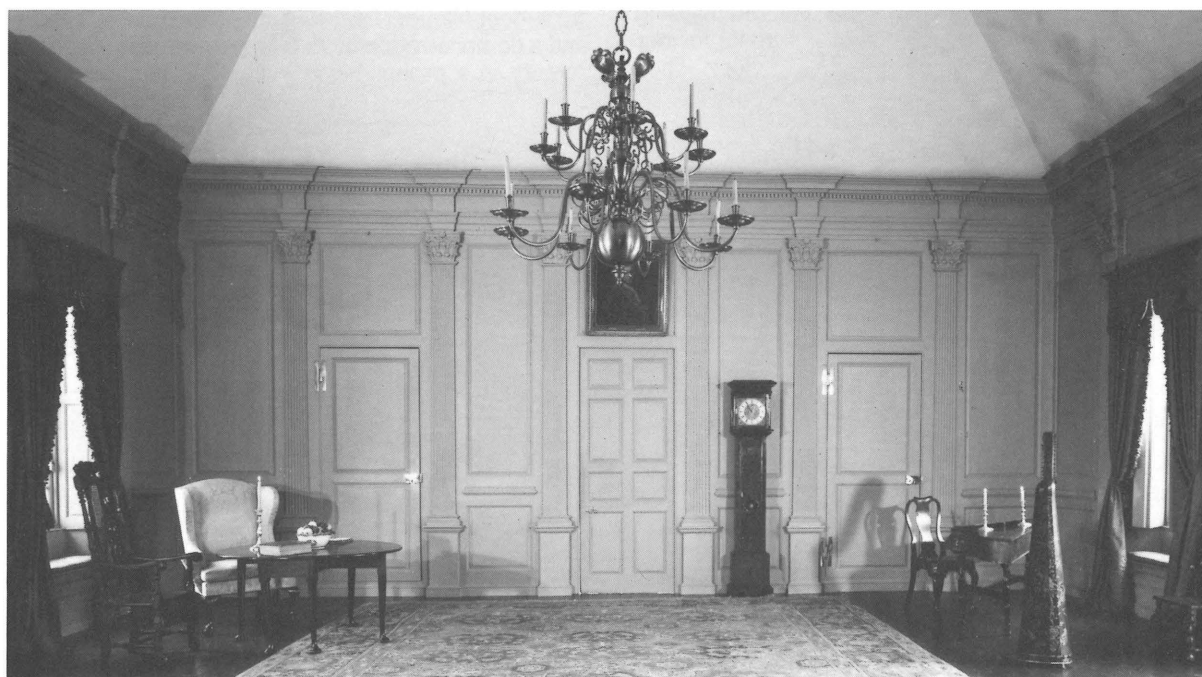
A 1957 view of Stratford Hall. Stratford Hall was purchased in 1929 by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, Inc. which has restored the house and outbuildings. Credit: Va. Department of Economic Development

1) Thomas Lee (1690–1750), the builder of Stratford; 2) Philip Ludwell Lee, Stratford's second owner, and two of his brothers who were signers of the Declaration of Independence, Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee; 3) Matilda Lee, daughter of Philip Lee, and 4) Henry Lee's second wife, Anne Hill Carter Lee, and their children, including Robert Edward Lee, born at Stratford on January 19, 1807. The interpretation stresses the ways the Lees used the house through the eighteenth century. Individual room use and topics of social history are also emphasized. Although Stratford is fortunate to have a magnificent collection of eighteenth century furnishings, the regular tour is not geared to an appreciation of those furnishings. Visitors with a special interest in the period furnishings are encouraged to take the two-hour decorative arts tour which is available by reservation.

After a tour of the Great House, visitors are

invited to stroll through the East Garden with its handsome large boxwood and the West Garden with its eighteenth-century varieties of fruits and vegetables planted in ornamental patterns. The walk returning to the Reception Center and parking area also invites a stop in the Stratford store for a look at the tasteful souvenirs and gift items available for sale. A complete plantation visit also includes a stop to see the Stratford Grist Mill in operation (on limited days) on the banks of the Potomac river as well as a stop for a plantation lunch at the Stratford Dining Room (open April 1–November 1). An extensive series of nature trails is also available to delight the visitors with time to enjoy the glories of Stratford Hall Plantation.

Vaughan Stanley, Librarian/Historian  
 Jessie Ball du Pont Memorial Library  
 Elizabeth Laurent



*Drawing room at Stratford showing the original Federal period woodwork. Credit: Historic American Building Survey*



*An original baluster recovered from the garden at Stratford. This formed the basis for the design of the exterior stair by Fiske Kimball.*



*Stratford's unique chimney clusters. Credit: Historic American Building Survey*

## Mount Vernon: Enduring Monument to George Washington the Farmer

As we pay tribute to the founding fathers of our country during the Bicentennial of the Constitution, no celebration would be complete without honoring the remarkable accomplishments of George Washington, whose leadership and guidance during this crucial period in American history ranks as one of his finest achievements. Had Washington not supported the advocates of the Constitution and agreed to serve as the country's first president, the United States we know today might not exist.

Yet during the years between the Revolutionary War and the presidency, Washington's attention centered on his farm in Virginia, and the improvements he made on his estate during that period shaped and defined the Mount Vernon that continues to delight thousands of visitors today.

While other historic homes in Virginia examine the significant contributions to Constitutional history made by the statesmen who resided there, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association continues to place its primary focus on Washington's domestic life at Mount Vernon. Just as the great Roman general Cincinnatus laid down his sword after victory in war and retired to his farm, so did Washington resign his commission as commander in chief at the end of the Revolutionary War and return to Mount Vernon to resume management of his neglected estate. With no thought of further official duties, Washington eagerly anticipated spending the remainder of his life as "a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac, free from the bustle of a camp and the busy scenes of public life."

Before the war Washington had begun an ambitious plan to expand and refine his home and the extensive grounds at the Mansion House Farm, the seat of his plantation. His first postwar project was to complete the additions to the Mansion and carry out the landscape plan he had begun to formulate eight years earlier.

In March 1785, representatives from Virginia and Maryland met at George Washington's home for the Mount Vernon Conference, a gathering which began

the events that culminated two years later at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. While the seeds for that historic meeting were being sown at Mount Vernon, Washington himself, who was host for but did not actively participate in the conference, was sowing another kind of seed along the large grove west of the Mansion. Washington's new landscape design centered around an expansive lawn, called the bowling green, flanked by gardens on each side and bordered with serpentine paths. Fascinated by botany, Washington procured a variety of seeds and spent the spring of 1785 planting trees and shrubs in what he called the "wildernesses" framing the bowling green. Within months an assortment of saplings began to reach for the sun, as young mulberry, maple, poplar, hemlock, locust, willow and ash trees sprang up along the serpentine walks. Several of these majestic trees still survive and have reached heights Washington could never have imagined, as their branches continue to provide beauty and shade to all who wander along the serpentine paths.

In addition to managing the plantation and carrying out his extensive landscape design of 1785, Washington found time to accommodate 423 visitors to his home, delighting each guest with the famous Mount Vernon hospitality. One visitor that year, Robert Hunter, witnessed the retired general's daily routine and observed of Washington that "his greatest pride now is to be thought the first farmer in America. He is quite a Cincinnatus, and often works with his men himself; strips off his coat and labors like a common man."

Samuel Vaughan, a guest at Mount Vernon in 1787, sketched Washington's landscape plan in a journal, detailing each curve of the serpentine walks that led to the courtyard circle in front of the Mansion and preserving for history Washington's impressive landscape plan. The Vaughan Plan has remained an invaluable guide to documenting the changes in Washington's estate accomplished during the years between the war and the presidency.

Although he spent much time beautifying the grounds surrounding his home, Washington did not neglect the Mansion itself during his postwar renovations. Many of the enlargements he had planned before the war were carried out in his absence under



*West front of the Mansion, looking straight up the bowling green, framed by the trees George Washington planted in 1785.*



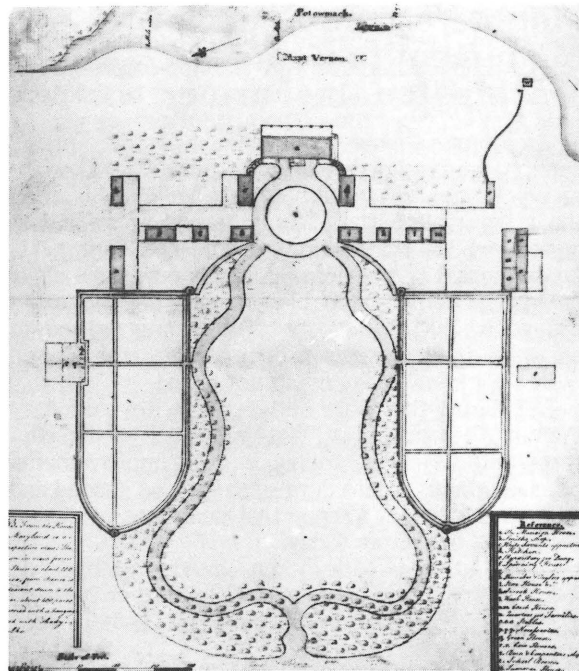


Mezzotint portrait of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale, 1787. Washington posed for Peale the summer of 1787 while in Philadelphia at the Constitutional convention. The border of the engraving lists among Washington's accomplishments "President of the Convention of 1787." (Now on display at Mount Vernon)

the direction of his cousin and manager Lund Washington. Yet work remained to be done on the newest addition, the north wing which contained a large dining room, always referred to as the "New Room" by Washington. Arrangements were made for completion of the interior, and Washington employed stucco workmen for the elegant plaster ornaments that would feature an appropriate agricultural motif. Ideal for entertaining, the room was completed in 1785 with the installation of an impressive marble mantelpiece, presented by Samuel Vaughan. In accepting the gift, Washington wrote to the donor that he feared that the mantelpiece was "too elegant & costly for my room & Republican style of living," but once in place, the sculpted marble provided the perfect finish to Mount Vernon's most formal room.

After completing the north wing, Washington turned his attention to the south addition, which had been added in 1774, to make further refinements to his private study on the first floor. In 1786, Washington installed a "Book press" along the east wall of the room, providing a handsome filing system for the hundreds of books and papers that he accumulated. The same year the walls of the room were grained, a method of painting that simulates fine wood by actually painting the grain of the desired wood onto another surface. Washington chose a warm, rich walnut grain to enhance his study. His newly-decorated office would soon become an important haven for Washington, as he labored at his desk on correspondence with leading statesmen about the mounting Constitutional crisis facing the United States.

Having retired from public life and devoted himself to his plantation for several years, Washington had no desire to return to government service, yet he could not ignore the pleas for his leadership and guidance in the upcoming attempt to formulate a new Constitution. When appointed to head the Virginia delegation to the Constitutional Convention in 1787,



Sketch of the layout of Mount Vernon, recorded by Samuel Vaughan during a visit to George Washington's home in 1787. Vaughan illustrated the new landscape design that Washington had completed the previous year, featuring a large grassy bowling green bordered by serpentine paths dotted with trees. The curving walks led to the courtyard circle area directly in front of the Mansion. (Now on display at Mount Vernon)

Washington accepted with reluctance, and during his three-month absence from Mount Vernon, he corresponded regularly with his farm manager about every aspect of the estate. Mount Vernon was never far from his mind, and while in Philadelphia Washington ordered several items for his home, including an unusual fan chair for his study and the famous dove of peace weathervane that crowns the cupola on the top of the Mansion.

The success of the Constitutional Convention set the stage for another eight-year absence from Mount Vernon, when in 1789 Washington was elected to the highest office under the new form of government, President of the United States. He served his country for two terms, finally returning to Mount Vernon in 1797, where he devoted the remaining two and one-half years of his life to the occupation he loved best at his treasured Virginia estate.

In the six years between the end of the Revolutionary War and the beginning of his presidency, Washington oversaw some of the most sweeping changes to take place on his estate. The landscape design carefully laid out by Washington from 1784-1786 remains as impressive today as it was when Washington's 18th-century visitors marveled at the beauty of his Mansion, framed by the classic border of trees along the elegant sweep of the bowling green. With the addition of the weathervane purchased in Philadelphia in 1787, the Mansion reached completion and today over one million visitors annually walk through the rooms that witnessed the home life so important to Washington. Two hundred years after Washington served at the Constitutional Convention, Mount Vernon continues to reflect the creativity and devotion of the father of our country.

Ann M. Rauscher  
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

## Gunston Hall

George Mason, author of the Virginia Constitution and Declaration of Rights, and framer of the United States Constitution, built Gunston Hall in 1755. The house is an important example of Colonial architecture with wood trim designed by William Buckland. At Gunston Hall Mason discussed problems of the day with his friends George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. From Gunston Hall he went to Philadelphia where he spent the summer of 1787 attending every session and actively participating in the Constitutional Convention. In the end he refused to sign the Constitution for several reasons including its omission of a Bill of Rights and its failure to ban the slave trade. Afterward he antagonized Washington and other neighbors with his effort to prevent Virginia's ratification of the Constitution. Scholars assert that without Mason's goading, there would have been no Bill of Rights.

In 1982 Gunston Hall began a major program of architectural research to learn more about the house as it was built by George Mason and his English "carpenter-joiner", William Buckland. Thorough knowledge of the original building is necessary for accurate preservation, restoration, and interpretation of an historic landmark.

The investigation has been thorough and extensive. It began as a quest for the answer to a single problem: had the service stair, removed in the 1950 restoration, been built by William Buckland? The initial search revealed the answer—yes—but brought forth further questions. In spite of great expense, and the trauma of learning that former beliefs and their embodiments were mistaken, the study has been pursued relentlessly with surprising and illuminating results. Much is being learned about the work of William Buckland, the sophistication of George Mason, and the original richness of Gunston Hall's appearance.

Paul Buchanan and Charles Phillips are conducting the research. They use scientific methods gained from long experience at Colonial Williamsburg where Mr. Buchanan was Director of Architectural Research until his retirement, and Old Salem, Winston-Salem, where Mr. Phillips was director of Architectural Restoration. Although they had never worked together before their Gunston Hall partnership, they make a good team, the skills and talents of each complementing the other. Frank Welsh, the historic paint analyst, joins them to seek the original colors used by Mason and Buckland.

They document each step of their study with photographs, descriptive writings, and scale drawings. Practically every board and nail and brick, each paint and plaster layer, each pane of glass and bit of carving, old nail holes and "shadows" and "ghosts" of former decoration are carefully recorded. No change is made which might hamper the work of later researchers with more advanced technology. The records themselves are an invaluable source of information now and in the future.

Research shows that Buckland had designed and installed much more elaborate, handcarved trim than remains. Under the architects' careful probing, original plaster layers, brick walls, and ancient floor boards reveal marks of this early decoration. Use of black light and raking light, lifting of paint layers, probing with delicate instruments, comparison with pattern books owned by Buckland, and long contemplation help Buchanan and Phillips piece together missing elements.

Based upon discoveries of the researchers, restorations are now under way. Great care is being taken to restore each detail as it was in the time of George Mason and his designer, William Buckland. Several highly skilled craftsmen work closely with the researchers. Robert Tiffany, cabinet maker, William Tillman, furniture maker, and John Bivens of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, have



Gunston Hall as it appears today. Credit: E. France

done parts of the woodwork.

Larry Jones, contractor and woodcarver, has done the majority of the restoration with his own hands. During his undergraduate days at St. John's College, Annapolis, he did carpentry at the Hammond-Harwood House where he developed a special appreciation for the genius of William Buckland. Jones's meticulous observation and his devotion to Buckland's creation enhance the quality of the restoration. Often, in the course of fulfilling assignments, he makes discoveries which add to the knowledge of the building's fabric and details, such as configuration of some of the mouldings.

On the second floor, partitions have been replaced, restoring the original seven bedrooms and storage closet, or "Lumber Room." An interior window discovered under nineteenth century plaster in the wall between Lumber Room and stairwell has been rebuilt. Shelves on brackets are in the original places on the wall inside the Lumber Room, with eighteenth century furnishings such as blankets, chamber pots, and a trunk arranged as suitable for a storeroom.

The most spectacular change wrought so far is inside the entrance. Research revealed that originally the center hall, in front of its pilaster-supported double arch, had been decorated with twelve additional pilasters, a pair flanking each door and window. It was also discovered that these twelve fluted pilasters had supported a complete Doric entablature, including a missing frieze under the remaining cornice. Replacements for all these have been carved and put back, complete to medallions centered in each metope of the reconstructed frieze.

From the spandrels of the double arch applied carvings had to be removed and cleaned of many layers of paint which obscured their fine detail; missing bits of carved wood were renewed.

The entry door has been replaced by a new door handbuilt from old walnut, with an eighteenth century brass lock. It swings from brass hinges cast by a Pennsylvania firm to conform with original screw holes found in the doorframe. An equally beautiful false door has been hung in place of the missing one opposite the side passage. New architraves for these doors and the key block which fits above the entry transom have been made from old, yellow pine.

Paint analysis indicates white, oil base paint originally had been on the woodwork; and, although no fragments have been found, evidence shows that Mason had wallpaper between the pilasters in the hall. Phillips and Buchanan conjecture that plain-painted paper would have been a reasonable choice for these walls, and Prussian blue an appropriate color. Prussian blue, invented in Berlin in 1710, its recipe published in England in 1724, was one of the most stylish and expensive pigments of the period. Gunston Hall's paint color was copied from the Prussian blue in a 1760s printed wallpaper originally in the Glover House in Marblehead, Massachusetts, which is now in the collection of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

To be consistent with the authenticity of the replaced wood trim, the Board of Regents decided that the papering should be done in eighteenth century manner with materials which would have been used then. In the eighteenth century plain-painted wallpaper sometimes was applied in sheets rather than in rolls. Susan Borchardt, Gunston Hall curator, and Larry Jones studied hundreds of eighteenth

century paper hangings at the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York in order to determine the correct weight and size of the sheets of handmade wallpaper.

Jones and Borchardt researched eighteenth century formulae for distemper (water-based paint) and methods for its application to wallpaper in Diderot's *Encyclopedia*, Tingry's *The Painter and Varnisher's Guide*, Dossie's *Handmaid to the Arts*, and in discussions with John Perry Company, wallpaper specialists in London since the eighteenth century. Matthew Mosca, who helped Mount Vernon discover its new paint colors, assisted Jones in research and



Center passage during Hertle tenure.

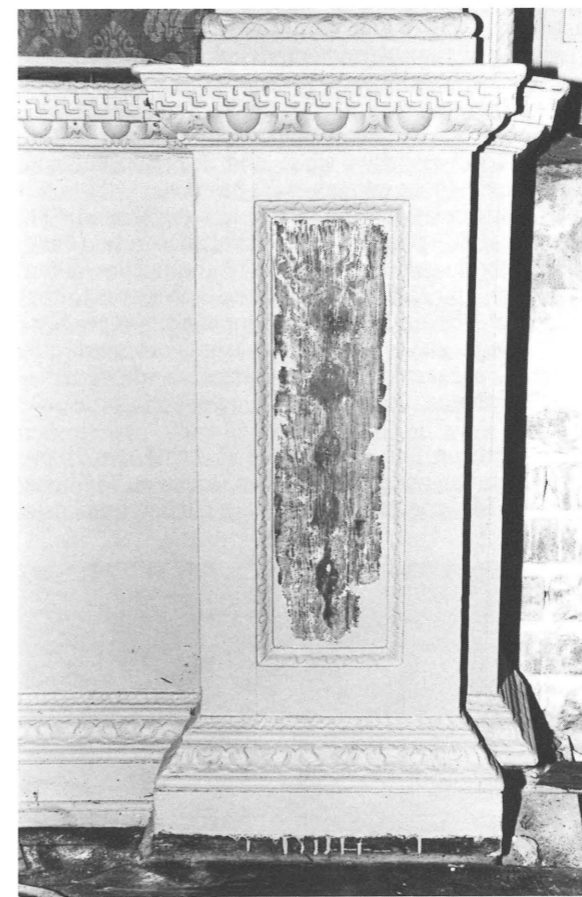


The center passage as it appeared in 1950.  
Credit: Virginia State Chamber of Commerce



Full scale architectural drawing of original mantel and overmantel in the Palladian room as conceived by researchers based on available evidence: a few marks remaining on the wall, scraps of original molding re-used in other places, designs in pattern books by Buckland, and design of the room's remaining trim around niches, doors and windows.

experiments with distemper. Streaking of brushstrokes was a problem. Although the old formulae produce a colored surface with sparkling translucence, twentieth century taste is disturbed by streaks which seem to call for another application of paint. However, a second coat causes the pigments to combine in a way which dulls the effect. After further research and experiments it was determined that isinglass, gelatin extracted from the air bladder of the sturgeon and available today only in Germany, was a key ingredient for producing an even and slow-drying application with minimum streaking and maximum brilliance. Jones's fluency in French



Ghosts of bow knots and bellflowers or pendant husks originally applied to panels in pilaster bases in the Palladian room.



Plank from original Doric frieze showing spacing of triglyphs and metopes. Plank was discovered when researchers dismantled the wall beside the entrance doorway.

and German has been a great asset in the research necessary for this part of the restoration.

Now one opens the richly polished walnut door of this unpretentious Georgian house and enters a space surrounded by gleaming white columns separated by panels of brilliant translucent blue and topped by a complete Doric entablature—an experience as breathtaking as entering a temple perched on a breezy acropolis on a sunny Greek island.

Such meticulous research and restoration on each space in the house require large quantities of money and time. Plans now are being made to replace mantels, overmantels, wall coverings, and decorative carvings in both the "Palladian" and "Chinese" rooms.

Research has taught us more about the use of the building by its original owners and their level of taste. A service staircase from basement to second floor was an up-to-date architectural convenience. The Lumber Room on the second floor was given a "robber" window into the stairwell to give necessary light without spoiling the exterior symmetry of the range of dormer windows. A false door added to the passage gave visual balance to the door opening into the side passage opposite. Marks on the floor in one corner of the "Chinese" room show the location of a large bed in this ornate chamber. However, a letter of Mason's suggests that in 1787 the "Chinese" room was used as a dining room; could its function have been changed during Mason's lifetime?

The study has presented Gunston Hall with an unexpected teaching opportunity in preservation. The house is open every day of the year (except December 25). The work is done in view of our visitors. As discoveries are made, the architects put in place full scale drawings and mock-ups of pilasters, frieze, mantels and overmantels, based upon their evidence. Larry Jones organizes his work to keep from interfering with tours; sometimes he works at night, sometimes his restoration is part of the tour. Guides are kept informed of developments. Visitors are fascinated by a dramatic lesson in historic preservation. Many return periodically to see changes as they occur.

The novelty of Gunston Hall's research and restoration project is that a house, of which the original architecture was considered to be almost completely restored, is undergoing a thorough reexamination. Since the Hertles bought it in 1912, Gunston Hall has been cherished by its owners as a distinguished example of colonial architecture and a shrine to a great patriot. The Hertles did a loving renovation and occupied the house for the remainder of their lives, deeding it to the Commonwealth after they died with the stipulation it be run by a board composed of members of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. The Commonwealth took possession of Gunston Hall in 1949 and the Board of Regents launched a major restoration with the most advanced knowledge of the period.

The current project is a demonstration of the desire of Gunston Hall's Regents, reflecting the corporate attitude of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, to understand precisely in order to present accurately an important piece of architecture which reflects the character, personality, and way of life of an important historic figure.

Mary Lee Allen  
Gunston Hall

## Ashlawn-Highland: Interpreting James Monroe

From 1799 until 1823, James Monroe and his family made their home at HIGHLAND, Monroe's 3,500-acre Albemarle County farm adjacent to Monticello. Jefferson had encouraged Monroe to settle near him so that the two men, along with James Madison at nearby Montpelier, could form the nucleus of Jefferson's "society to our taste." This political and personal alliance became known as the Virginia Triumvirate, for the three men followed one another into the Presidency for 25 consecutive years.

The intervention of Monroe's friends on his behalf is evidenced in the planning of Highland. Construction of the main house began after Monroe's return from diplomatic service in France in 1797. Jefferson, along with Monroe's uncle, Joseph Jones, had already selected a building site and had begun cultivation of an orchard. Within the next year, Monroe sent Madison nails and other building supplies to aid Madison's building projects at Montpelier; in return, Madison sent the Monroes seed potatoes for spring planting, bottled gooseberries, and dried cherries. The Madisons were the first visitors invited to Highland, and the Monroes frequently stayed at Montpelier.

Highland remained Monroe's home for twenty-four years. Although public service responsibilities frequently drew him away from the supervision of his farm, Monroe experimented with crop rotation, fertilization and viticulture at Highland. In 1816 Monroe enclosed an area on the north side of his house

where a porch had stood. This alteration gave Monroe a finished residence with 2,200 square feet on the main floor, additional garrett and basement space, and an insured value of \$2,500.

Planning to rebuild Highland, Monroe consulted with Jefferson's chief builder, James Dinsmore, in early 1817. Because of his worsening debts, his inability to sell his other land holdings, and his wife's increasingly frail health, Monroe eventually decided to sell Highland. He decided to implement his building plans at Oak Hill, his Loudoun County property and sold Highland in 1826.

Following Monroe's death, two major changes occurred to the main house at Highland. After an apparent fire in the late 1830s, most of Highland's east wing was removed, and two rooms in the remaining section were remodeled. The estate was also re-named Ash Lawn, presumably because of the white ash trees on the property. In the early 1870s, a two-story addition was constructed on part of the site of the demolished wing, and the main building was brought to its current configuration.

Philanthropist Jay Winston Johns purchased Ash Lawn in 1930, conducted an initial restoration, and opened the house and grounds to the public. When Johns died in 1974, he bequeathed Ash Lawn to the College of William and Mary, Monroe's *alma mater*. The College immediately established programs for research, preservation, and restoration whose functions continued as Ash Lawn reopened in April, 1975.

The interpretative programs at Ash Lawn-Highland, as the estate is now known, focus on the lives of James Monroe and his family, including emphasis

on farm life in early 19th-century Virginia, and on the cultural milieu of the Monroe era, 1758-1831. These programs are presented through guided tours, craft demonstrations, and special theatrical performances.

Ash Lawn-Highland's great interpretative challenge is the presentation of the Monroe dwelling as it now stands, partially obliterated by the Victorian addition. With only half the floorspace available to the Monroes, the original structure seems surprisingly modest to the modern visitor. Based on the existence of Monroe objects, documentary references, and typical period room treatments, Ash Lawn-Highland has created representative living, dining, and sleeping areas on the main floor of the house. This representation condenses the depiction of the Monroe home to the available restored space, while it allows guides to discuss all the major activities that occurred in the larger building of Monroe's time. The Victorian wing is used as an orientation space for visitors beginning their tours. This wing houses the museum's Victorian furnishings collection and its exhibits on the Monroe family and on the architectural evolution of Ash Lawn-Highland.

Farm crafts and daily activities are discussed in the utilitarian basement rooms of the Monroe house and in the outbuildings. In 1986, Ash Lawn-Highland completed reconstruction of the servants' quarters in the service yard. This building was documented by two archaeological excavations and by a 1908 photograph. With financial assistance from the Virginia General Assembly and support from the Division of Historic Landmarks, this building was reconstructed on its original site, and a pilot program

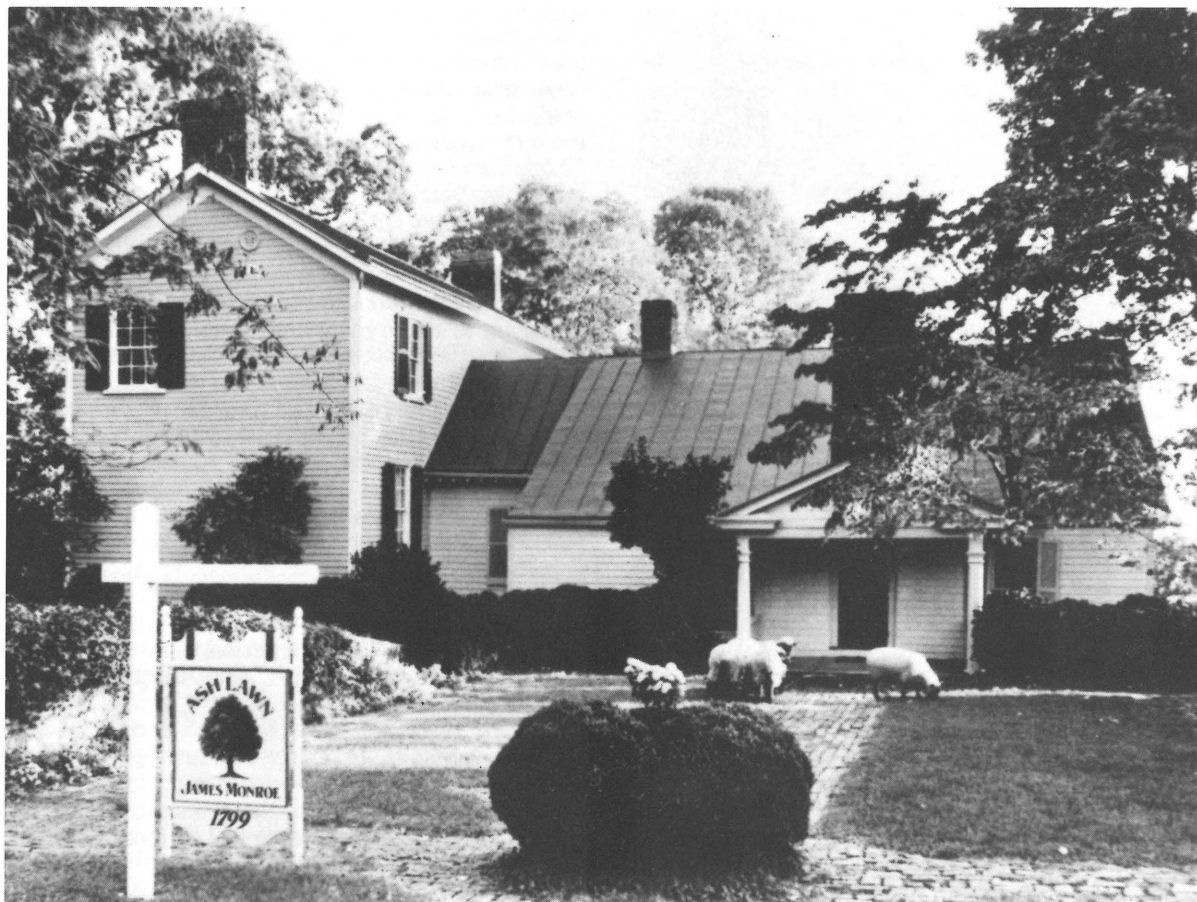
examining slavery on Monroe's farm through demonstrations of farm carfts and open hearth cooking has been initiated.

The grounds of Ash Lawn-Highland also serve as an area of interpretation. The museum's special events calendar include presentations of plays and comic operas of the type known to Monroe and his contemporaries. All productions are held on the museum grounds to recreate the ambiance of 18th-century lawn entertainment. These Summer Festival presentations allow the interpretation of the cultural influences in Europe and the United States during Monroe's lifetime.

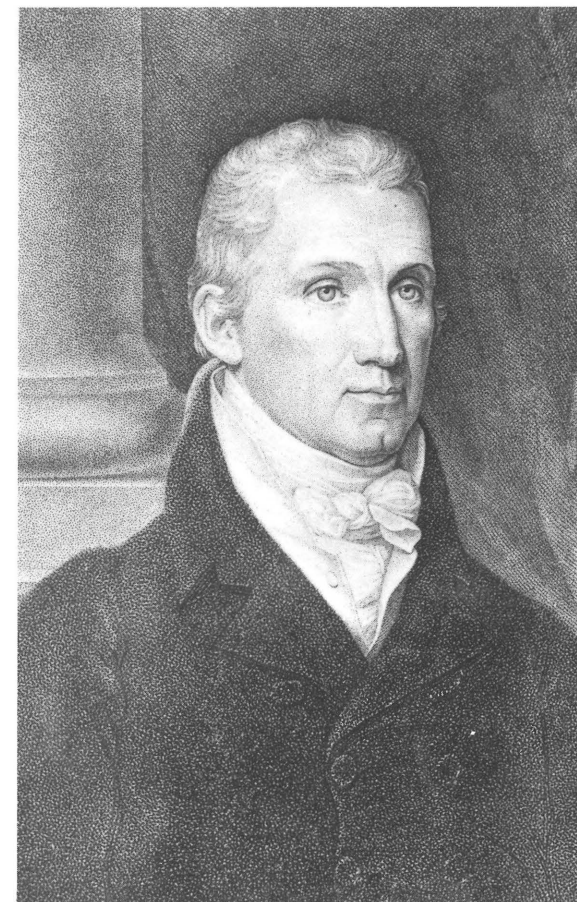
Even the Victorian addition to the Monroe house receives its own interpretative focus. Aside from the daily discussion of the addition as part of the evolution of Ash Lawn-Highland, two annual evening Christmas programs use the addition to interpret family activities at the Monroe estate in the Victorian era.

Since 1975 the College of William and Mary has not only preserved its inheritance of the Monroe estate, it has also charged the museum with the increasingly thorough and accurate representation of its historic site through continued research and documentation of property, structures, furnishings, and events. Ultimately the museum's programs and projects will permit Ash Lawn-Highland to be known again simply as "Highland," the farm that was home to the Monroe family for nearly a quarter century,

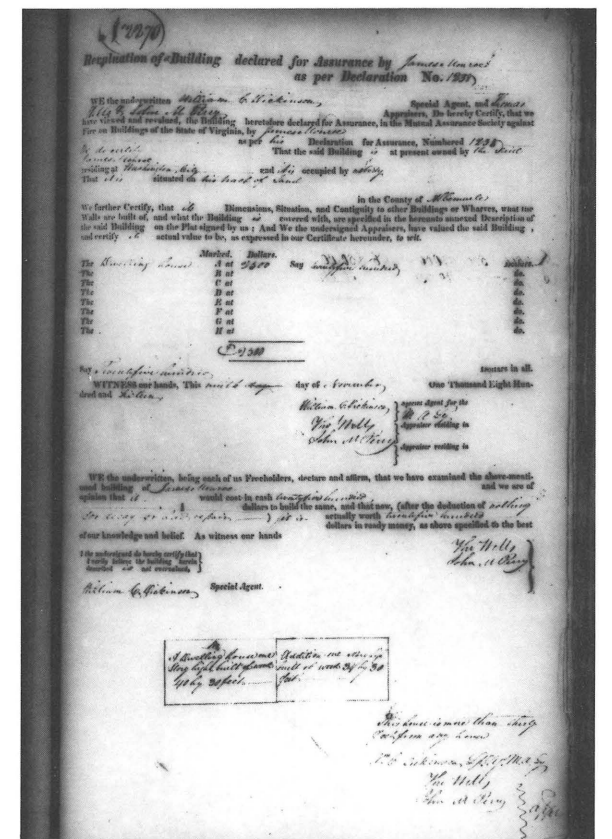
James Wooten, Assistant Director  
Ash Lawn-Highland



Ash Lawn-Highland, north elevation. The original Monroe house stands to the west of the two-story Victorian addition from the early 1870s. Credit: Ash Lawn-Highland



James Monroe, 1816. Engraving after the portrait by John Vanderlyn. Credit: Ash Lawn-Highland



Mutual Assurance policy #2270, dated 9 November, 1816, shows the configuration of the Monroe house following the addition built onto the north side of the house at this time. This addition brought the extant wing of the Monroe house to dimensions of 34' x 30'. Credit: Virginia State Library

## Patrick Henry's Law Office at Red Hill

Readers may be familiar with the British Debts Case (U.S. District Court, Richmond 1791-1795; U.S. Supreme Court, 1796), the most important legal case heard by the fledgling government under the new United States Constitution. At stake was not only £ 4,930,000 sterling claimed by British merchants from hundreds of U.S. citizens, but also the validity of the 1783 Treaty of Paris, the honor of the state of Virginia, and the entire Anglo-American mercantile system. Indeed, the eyes of two continents were on the proceedings and its outcome.

For Patrick Henry, patriot, statesman, first Governor of Virginia, the case represented his best effort in a courtroom. He successfully led a team of lawyers representing the interests of the Virginia debtor against a group of top British lawyers. Along the way he demonstrated a mastery of international law which drew plaudits from his detractors and enshrined him as a lawyer among his supporters.

Patrick Henry's law office at "Red Hill" in Char-

lotte County\* still stands today. It was the place at which Henry prepared at least some of his arguments for his famous case. By early 1798, he closed his law practice there due to ill health.

Henry died in 1799. An inventory of his furniture and library of more than 200 books was taken which today serves as a valuable "tool" for interpreting Henry's legal career and the office building.

Patrick Henry's son John Henry (1796-1868) inherited the Red Hill Plantation, but it was John's son, William Wirt Henry (1839-1900) who revived the use of the building after he came into possession of the property.

William Wirt Henry was an accomplished author, historian, artist, and lawyer who practiced in Richmond. He constructed a small office building, using the farm as a summer retreat while allowing farm tenants to live in the old law office building. In 1896 William Wirt Henry published his 3-volume *Life of Patrick Henry*, the most extensive work ever written on the subject.

Tragedy struck Red Hill in the early 1900s. William Wirt Henry's daughter, Lucy Gray Henry Harri-

son, acquired Red Hill in 1905 and undertook an extensive estate renovation. An 18-room structure had been added to Patrick Henry's original house, but in 1919 a fire destroyed the mansion, including most of the Patrick Henry furniture inside.

Fortunately, the original law office survived. Mrs. Harrison had moved the building 300 yards away, added a porch, and coupled William Wirt Henry's law office to it to make a rather comfortable farm manager's house. It was here that she was forced to live her remaining days. Mrs. Harrison's ill health and the resulting financial strains contributed to a period of disrepair and neglect.

In 1945, following the death of Mrs. Harrison, the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Inc. was formed. The institution purchased Red Hill and in 1954 began restoration of the entire estate to its 18th-century appearance. In 1960, the law office building was to be restored to its original site and condition but an immediate problem occurred. The Virginia Department of Highways in 1934 constructed a road encircling the area, part of which covered the original site of Patrick Henry's law office. To complicate matters, the Virginia Highway Commission refused to release their right-of-way,

determining that it was "needed for highway purposes". The building was then moved as close as possible to the original site (twenty feet off center) and an affidavit filed at the county courthouse explaining the situation for future reference.

Understanding of the use of Patrick Henry's law office and library had remained constant, indeed stagnant, since the building's restoration in 1961. Visitors were escorted into one room that was believed to be Patrick Henry's office. A brief description of Henry's practice here with highlights of his original furniture usually followed. Visitors would then be escorted into the adjacent room and told that it was Patrick Henry's library. The function of each room appeared to rest on an assumption that the building's title, "law office *and* library," meant literally that.

In recent years, research has suggested that not only did Patrick Henry's library room serve as the book repository and reading room, but as the office room as well. As for the other room, its functional purpose was likely that of a combination bedroom and "living" room.

Generally, such a presumption is based on the knowledge of the Henry family's living habits. Patrick Henry is known to have closeted himself for days at a time in his office building, preparing for cases. Where did he sleep? Additionally, the cramped living quarters of the main house were not accommodating to the many overnight guests frequenting the Henry home. They are believed to have been housed in the office building and, when not in use by Henry or his guests, became sleeping quarters for at least two children, son Patrick, Jr., and nephew John Christian. As a result of these and other facts, we now believe both rooms were multi-functional and therefore more domestic furnishings are needed.

The two above mentioned preservation and interpretation problems are about to be resolved. Thanks to a three-year grant from the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution (which has made Patrick Henry's law office its state project), existing furniture will be rearranged, additional furniture acquired, and increased security measures adopted.

In 1984, the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation agreed to turn over the road encircling Red Hill to the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, thus freeing up the land on which Patrick Henry's law office originally stood. As part of a five-year long range planning document to be issued this fall, the Foundation will endorse returning the building to its original 18th-century site. This will entail moving the building twenty-five feet by 1992.

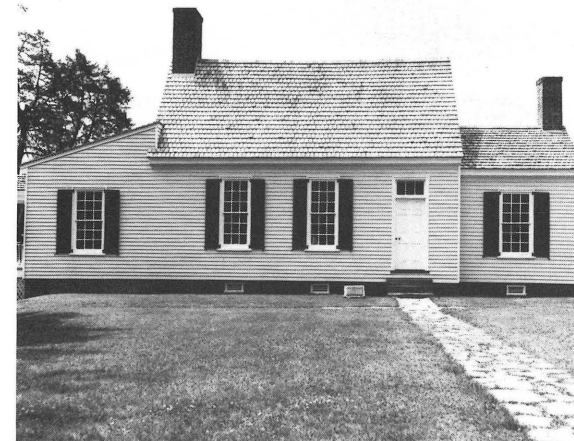
It is interesting to note that these changes will resolve generation-old problems at an appropriate time in history: during the bicentennial celebration of our Constitution and the bicentennial era of Henry's residency at Red Hill.

\*In 1986 Red Hill was designated the Patrick Henry National Memorial by act of Congress. The restored plantation home and burial place of Patrick Henry is an Affiliated Area of the National Park System, open daily to the public.

Patrick T. Daily  
Executive Director  
Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation



Patrick Henry's law office connected to William Wirt Henry's law office; the upper story was added by Mrs. Harrison when she moved from the main house after it burned in 1919. Additional research suggests that Mrs. Harrison had the stairs installed in 1905 at the same time that she had the additions made on the original Patrick Henry home.



The main dwelling house at Red Hill as it was reconstructed on its original foundation, 1954-1956.



Patrick Henry's Law Office today, as it looked during Patrick Henry's tenure.

# The Virginia Landmarks Register

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Board is pleased to note the following additions made to the Virginia Landmarks Register since the Fall of 1986. 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 1,100 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 hard-bound copy of the **Virginia Landmarks Register**, Third Edition (1986) is available for \$20.00 (plus Virginia sales tax) from the University Press of Virginia, Box 3608 University Station, Charlottesville, VA. 22903. Add \$1.50 for handling.

The **Bell House** at 821 Irving Avenue in Colonial Beach is one of the most important examples of Stick-style residential architecture in Virginia. While popular in the northeast, this particular style of architecture is relatively rare in the state. The house is also significant as the only building in Virginia directly associated with the inventor, Alexander Graham Bell. Bell's father, Alexander Melville Bell, acquired the house in 1886 shortly after it was built. The famous inventor inherited the property in 1907 and held it continuously until 1918. Local tradition associates the house with Alexander Graham Bell's experiments with kites and flying machines. As one of Colonial Beach's oldest dwellings, the Bell House is representative of the many wood-frame cottages that formerly stood on Irving Avenue in the 1880s during the town's development as a Potomac River resort.

The **Broad Street Commercial Historic District**, which embraces roughly the blocks on Broad Street from Belvidere to Third Street, contains the finest and best preserved collection of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings in Richmond. Many of the structures were architect designed. The street was the focus of that period's retail trade as well as the center of the city's elaborate streetcar system. This concentration of activity on the street encouraged merchants to build elaborately in order to make the street a showcase of Richmond's commercial prosperity. The area also became a center for social and culture activities with the Masonic Temple and several theatres and cafes developed at a time when the city was trying to convert the street into Richmond's "Great White Way." Modern development and intrusions in the district are minimal, and today the street represents an all but perfect traditional American "Main Street."

**Buckshoal Farm** was acquired by the late Governor William M. Tuck's great-grandfather, Mark Alexander Wilkinson, in 1841 who added on to the early 19th-century dwelling standing on the land at that time. Wilkinson's grandson, Robert J. Tuck, purchased the farm and named it "Valley Home," and it was here that William M. Tuck was born in 1896. Governor Tuck renamed the property "Buckshoal Farm" after he inherited it from his father.

Buckshoal Farm was Tuck's favorite retreat during his long political career in service to the Commonwealth. Tuck served as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly from 1924 to 1932; as a State Senator from 1932 to 1942; Lieutenant Governor from 1942 to 1946; Governor of Virginia from 1946 to 1950, and as a United States Congressman from 1953 to 1969. As Governor, Tuck was instrumental in the passage of the important "Right-to-Work-Act" in 1947. The house itself sited on a hill is a simple vernacular house whose earliest section was constructed in the early 19th century; the house has had several subsequent additions.

The **Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site** (44TZ92), holds an undisturbed archaeological deposit containing human osteological remains and artifacts relating to its use as a place of burial during the later half of the Late Woodland Period (ca. A.D. 1300-1700). The site is the best preserved example of a Late Wood Period burial cave known in Virginia. The burial deposit should contribute important information on the physical anthropology, demographic characteristics, and cultural practices of the prehistoric peoples of Southwest Virginia. It is likely the cave also contains intact deposits useful for determining the paleoenvironment of the region.

The **Croaker Landing Archaeological Site**, (44JC70) in James City County, Virginia, is a well preserved stratified midden deposit containing evidence of prehistoric habitation through approximately 2,500 years of the Woodland period. Located adjacent to the York River's rich tidal flat-marsh environment, the site is known to contain projectile points, ceramics, and faunal remains in a stratified context. This research data is invaluable for identifying diagnostic artifacts that can more precisely define prehistoric chronologies for Virginia's coastal plain and has the potential for documenting changes over time in human adaptation to the region's natural environment. Identified as a small campsite culturally associated with larger village sites across the York River, the site in its deepest level contains examples of some of the earliest pottery types made in the coastal plain of Virginia. This pottery dates from ca. 1200 to 800 B.C.



Bell House, Colonial Beach, Westmoreland County.



Buckshoal Farm, Halifax County.

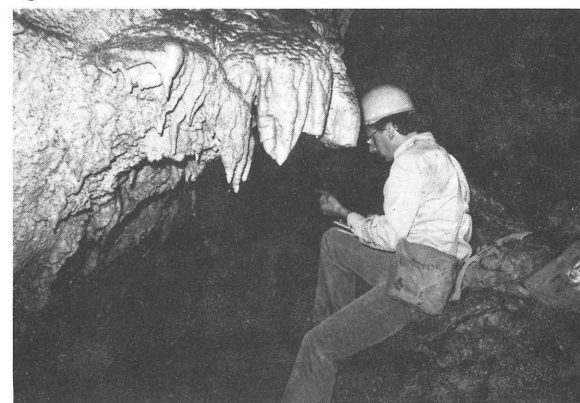
Broad Street Commercial Historic District, Richmond; Steinbrecker Building. Credit: Richard Cheek



Broad Street Commercial Historic District, Richmond; the "Milk Bottle Building."



Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site, Tazewell County. Interior view showing P. Willey, University of Tennessee, examining osteological remains.



Croaker Landing Archaeological Site, James City County.





*Dykeland, Amelia County.*



*Emmanuel Church, King George County.*



*Lower Basin Historic District, North side of the 1200 block of Main Street, Lynchburg.*



*City of Fairfax Historic District, North side of Main Street. Credit: Emma Jane Saxe*



*City of Fairfax Historic District, 10416-10410 Main Street. Credit: Emma Jane Saxe*



*Lower Basin Historic District, The Ninth Street Bridge, Lynchburg.*

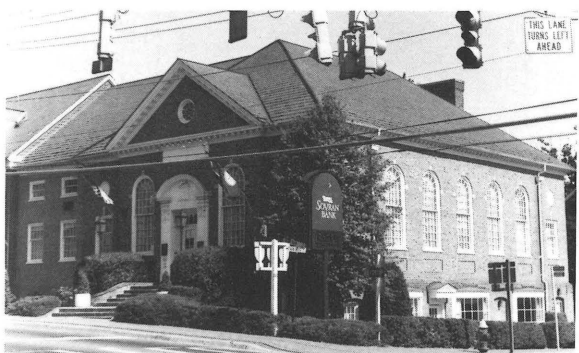


*Montview, Lynchburg.*

**Dykeland**, located near the Chula community in Amelia County, is a two-story, wood frame house reflecting two distinctive architectural styles: a vernacular section dating from the early 19th century and a more elaborate Italianate section dating from 1856-57. Its significance derives from having been the residence of entrepreneur and politician, Lewis E. Harvie. Harvie became the president of the Richmond and Danville Railroad in 1856, an enterprise he helped establish in 1847. Under his leadership the railroad experienced a period of prosperity before the Civil War and remained operative during the war years despite Union raids, and material and labor shortages. Harvie represented Amelia County in the House of Delegates from 1841 to 1850 and was an ardent secessionist in the Virginia State Convention of 1861. The property includes several 19th century dependencies, most notably an early 19th-century kitchen, a storehouse, and a dairy.

**Emmanuel Church**, located at Port Conway on the Rappahannock River, is significant as a member of Virginia's small but important collection of Gothic Revival-style country churches. Completed in 1859-60 and attributed on the basis of architectural evidence to the Baltimore architectural partnership of Niernsee and Neilson, the church features excellent proportions, fine detailing, and an imposing tower which bears a stylistic comparison with Martin's Brandon Church in Prince George County. Although damaged during the Civil War, the church interior retains its original gallery and a Henry Erban organ dating to the third quarter of the 19th-century. The building is a familiar landmark to motorists crossing the Rappahannock River between Port Royal and Port Conway along U.S. 301.

The **City of Fairfax Historic District** is an area encom-



*City of Fairfax Historic District, 10440 Main Street formerly National Bank of Fairfax. Credit: Emma Jane Saxe*

passing the Fairfax County Courthouse and the supporting buildings constructed for office and retail functions on major transportation routes adjacent to the courthouse lots. Also included in the district are four residences and a church complex. The 35 contributing buildings represent each period of historical development of the town from 1800 to the 1930s. The significant elements of the district are associated with major events in the history of the county seat. These reflect the changing needs of the community as it evolved from an 1800 brick courthouse and tavern crossroads to a city of 20,500 people. The historic core continues its function as the county seat for a county numbering over 600,000 in population while still retaining the scale and character of an early 20th-century town.



*Mount Ida, Buckingham County. Interior of the parlor.*

The **Lower Basin Historic District**, located primarily along Lynchburg's James River waterfront, defines the city's major 18th-, 19th-, and early 20th-century commercial and mercantile center. Beginning as Lynch's Ferry in the 1750s and emerging as an important canal and railroad transportation center during the mid-19th century, Lynchburg maintained its role as a leading manufacturing and marketing center for much of the Piedmont region until well into the 20th century. The Lower Basin area takes its name from an expanded portion of the James River and Kanawha Canal which linked the city to the eastern markets after 1840. Canal traffic and the arrival of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad to Lynchburg in 1849 resulted in increased commercial activity in the Lower Basin. It was during the early 20th century that most of the district's commercial warehouses, factories and job-

bing houses were built. Rows of multi-story, utilitarian brick structures present a compact and cohesive display of period commercial architecture. Traces of Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical, and Italian Renaissance styles are seen in the sturdy facades that line Jefferson and Commerce streets.

**Montview** is directly associated with the senatorial career of Carter Glass, one of America's foremost 20th-century public figures. A leading progressive reformer during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, Glass is chiefly remembered for his successful sponsorship of the Glass-Owen Act which established the Federal Reserve banking system. After serving briefly in Wilson's cabinet, the Lynchburg Democrat entered upon a long and distinguished career in the United States Senate. After Pearl Harbor, Glass became one of Franklin Roosevelt's strongest allies, serving as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and President Pro-Tempore of the Senate. In 1923, Glass had moved to Montview, a dwelling whose construction he supervised himself. Montview was the site of Glass's taking of his senatorial oath of office in 1942. He died at Montview in 1946.

**Mount Ida**, located in the New Canton area of Buckingham County, was built in the late 18th century by William Cannon, a captain in the Buckingham County militia during the American Revolution. Mount Ida's most significant architectural feature is its parlor. Believed to be among the most formal and sophisticated late-18th-century rooms yet recorded in Virginia, the room's architectural elements are derived from English builders' guides of the period. In addition to the house, a kitchen, a tenant's house, and a barn and threshing mill survive on the property. The threshing mill is one of the few such structures still to be found in Buckingham County.



*Downtown Norfolk Historic District, North Side of Plume Street.*

The **Downtown Norfolk Historic District**, which occupies the oldest continuously settled area of Virginia's second largest city, is closely associated with events and developments that have made significant contributions to Norfolk's history as a rail, banking, and maritime industrial center. Representative of the city's optimism, prosperity, and cultural advancement through a period of expanding port and naval activity, improved rail transportation, and increased visitation to Norfolk for the Jamestown Exposition of 1907, the district embodies distinctive characteristics of early 20th-century commercial architectural in general and elaborate terra cotta ornamentation in particular. While predominantly Classical Revival in style, the buildings concentrated along Granby Street are varied in their interpretation of the Classical vocabulary and include examples of the Beaux Arts and Italianate styles as well as many vernacular adaptations. Prominent East Coast architects whose work is represented in the district include Ammi B. Young (U.S. Customs House, 1859), Charles E. Cassell (Citizens Bank Building, 1897), and John Keevan Peebles (Lynnhaven Hotel, 1906), and Thomas White Lamb (Loew's Theatre, 1925). The distinguished row of narrow brick storefronts on Granby Street constitutes one of Norfolk's most cohesive commercial streetscapes.

Since its construction in 1910, the **Old Roanoke County Courthouse** in Salem has served for three quarters of a century as the symbol and focal point of local government authority. The second courthouse to stand on the same site since Roanoke County's formation from Botetourt County in 1838, the Neoclassical-style courthouse was designed by Roanoke architect H. H. Huggins, who also designed the courthouses for Franklin and Montgomery counties. Henry Hartwell Huggins was described in his obituaries as "one of Roanoke's most prominent men . . . (He) was regarded as one of the foremost architects in the South and planned many of the major buildings in the City (of Roanoke)."

The "**Honeymoon Cottage**" or **Pine Slash** as it is now known, is an 18th-century dwelling that was the first home of Patrick Henry and his new bride, Sarah Shelton—hence its popular name. A manor house and 316 acres were given to Patrick Henry and Sarah by her family on the occasion of their marriage. When the manor house burned, the young Henrys moved into this house. Pine Slash is primarily significant for its unique construction. No other examples of colonial vertical plank construction have been identified in Virginia; very few have been found in the entire southeastern United States. The building is a primary document in the history of Virginia construction technology. The oldest section of the dwelling was erected ca. 1750. A large frame addition was made ca. 1800. A second residence is included in the landmark registration known as Prospect Hill. Sited on the location of the earlier burned manor house, Prospect Hill was built ca. 1830. Adding to the significance of the property is the fact that only one family—the Jones family—have occupied the property since 1797.

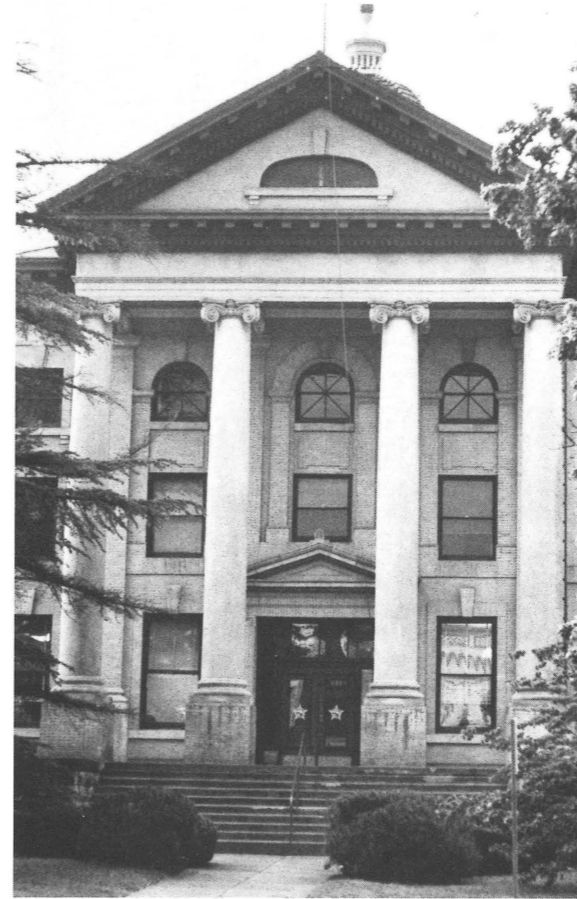


*Downtown Norfolk Historic District, East Side of Granby Street.*

The **Rapidan Historic District**, a tiny village bisected by the Rapidan River in Culpeper and Orange counties, began as a small milling community known as Waugh's Ford in the late 18th century. The village was renamed Rapid Ann Station with the coming of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad in 1854. In its strategic position as a railroad station and river crossing, Rapidan was the scene of several Civil War raids in which the mill and most of the town's buildings were destroyed. Emerging during the post-Civil War era as a regional shipping point for lumber and wood products, the village mostly contains buildings dating from the late-19th and early 20th-centuries. Dwellings range from simple vernacular to large Italianate and late Victorian farmhouses. Especially significant are the town's two Carpenter Gothic churches—Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church and Emmanuel Episcopal Church, both dating to 1874.

**Rockland**, so named because of the limestone outcroppings defining the landscape, developed in the early 19th century as the home of General George Rust, a prominent Loudoun County figure. General Rust's descendants have occupied the property to the present day. The primary historic feature of Rockland is the main house, a 2½-story brick building constructed in 1822 and modified in 1908. Also included in the recognized property is an overseer's house, servants' quarters, a smokehouse and a barn. General Rust was active at Baltimore in the War of 1812. He later served in the Virginia House of Delegates and was described by a contemporary as a "Virginia gentleman of great intelligence." General Rust's son, Colonel Armistead Rust, attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served with the 19th Virginia Infantry during the Civil War. It is conjectured that Colonel Rust's son, Henry Bedinger Rust, prepared the plans for the 1908 enlargement of Rockland.

**St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church** on East Bute Street in downtown Norfolk was erected in 1887–88 in what was at the time a downtown Norfolk area. It remains an almost unaltered example of Richardsonian style architecture and is the only church in the Tidewater area which employed the Romanesque style associated with Northern Italy. It is also the only surviving structure associated with one of Norfolk's leading architects, Charles M. Cassell. The history of St. John's congregation is also of great interest as closely paralleling the social evolution of Norfolk's black population from slavery to freedom. It began as an outreach effort around 1800 by the Cumberland Street Methodist Church; it became independent during the Civil War and joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1864. The congregation was instrumental in the establishment of St. Mark's A.M.E. Church and the revitalization of St. James A.M.E. Church. The interior of St. John's is noteworthy for the large sanctuary which gives an appearance of being even larger than its 1500 person seating capacity. Also included in the registered property is the 1907 parsonage west of the church, built on plans drawn by J. A. Leonard and Brothers of Washington, DC.



*Old Roanoke County Courthouse, Salem.*



*Rapidan Historic District, Culpeper and Orange Counties, "An-nandale."*

*Rockland, Loudoun County.*



*Pine Slash, Hanover County.*



*Rapidan Historic District, Culpeper and Orange Counties, Peyton Grimsby House.*

*St. John's A.M.E. Church, Norfolk.*





*Sonner Hall, Randolph Macon Academy, Front Royal, Warren County.*

**The Snowville Christian Church**, built in 1864, represents the principal church in the industrial town of Snowville in rural Pulaski County. The church is similar to many of the churches in the New River Valley in its plan but is larger and has more elaborate detailing. The church was founded as one of six churches in the region by the charismatic religious leader and doctor, Chester Bullard who was a Snowville resident. Bullard, a Massachusetts native, came to Montgomery County with his sister who married Asiel Snow. He was drawn by the religious revivals taking place in the area and developed an independent interpretation of scripture drawing on both the Baptist and Methodist faiths. After a meeting with Alexander Campbell, a leader in the Disciples of Christ movement, he united his "Bullardites" with that group. His church in Snowville is a significant reminder of that important part of religious history in Southwest Virginia.

**Sonner Hall**, the main building of Randolph Macon Academy, with its large dome and distinguished entrance portico, is a visually prominent landmark overlooking the town of Front Royal. Built in 1927 in the Colonial Revival Style by Lynchburg builder J. P. Pettyjohn after a fire destroyed the academy's original main building on the same site, Sonner Hall remains the heart of the last surviving preparatory school for the former Randolph-Macon system of colleges and academies. The system was established by the Methodist Church in 1890 as an auxiliary to Randolph-Macon College and at one time embraced three preparatory schools and two colleges. In the tradition of other prominent educational institutions in the Valley of Virginia, the school has offered a regular course of military instruction since 1917. Sonner Hall continues to function as the principal building of the academy which remains the only military preparatory boarding school in the nation operating under the auspices of the United Methodist Church.

The **Suffolk Historic District** is significant because of its architectural integrity and its association with state and regional commercial, industrial, and transportation history. The district includes a variety of architectural designs that span the period from the late-18th century to the early-20th century. Styles of architecture found in the district include Federal, Italianate, Victorian, Neoclassical, and Bungalow style. Public buildings in the district include several fine churches, a Masonic Hall, the U.S. Post Office, and Suffolk's oldest railroad depot, as well as two well preserved school buildings dating from the early 20th century.

**Trinity Methodist Church**, a substantial Italianate brick building conspicuously located on the west slope of Church Hill in Richmond, was constructed between 1859 and 1875. Although the building has suffered the loss of its

distinctive and very tall spire, and has undergone a series of minor alterations, it maintains its integrity as an architectural landmark. For many years, Trinity Methodist Church was home to the city's oldest Methodist congregation. The elegant edifice, designed by prominent Richmond architect, Albert L. West, is critical to the architectural skyline of the Church Hill area.

**Verville** is one of only a handful of colonial buildings to survive in Lancaster County. While the form of the house is typical of the 18th-century Chesapeake area, early records indicate that Verville was always considered a superlative example of local domestic architecture. The only remaining structure on a plantation that once had a large collection of dependencies and agricultural buildings, Verville was built by Scots-Irish immigrant James Gordon I in the 1740s. Both he and his son, James Gordon II, were influential merchants, planters, and public officials in the 18th century. Verville is also the standing building most closely associated with James Waddell, a Presbyterian minister notable for his contributions to a dissenting religion in pre-revolutionary Virginia. Finally, during the early years of the American republic, Verville became the seat of Ellyson Currie, a distinguished lawyer and justice of the Virginia General Court. It was this owner who gave Verville its name.

Originally known as Glengyle, **Virginia Manor** is located near Natural Bridge in southern Rockbridge County. Begun in 1800 as a two-story log structure, Virginia Manor was considerably enlarged in 1856, 1897, and 1920. It is architecturally significant as one of a select group of Rockbridge County estates that evolved from a simple vernacular structure into a high-style country manor. The house is illustrative of changing tastes in local architecture, representing vernacular building as well as Greek Revival and Eastlake styles. The large collection of out-buildings represent a complete assemblage of necessary support structures found in a late-19th-century country estate. The house is also significant for its association with two especially illustrious occupants, General Fitzhugh Lee and George W. Stevens. Lee used Virginia Manor as his headquarters for the Rockbridge Land Company. It also served as the country home of George Stevens, President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad from 1900 to 1920. The small concrete railroad waiting station still stands as a reminder of Stevens' management of the C&O Railroad while in residence at Virginia Manor.

*Correction*  
In the *Virginia Landmarks Register* section of *NOTES #29* the name of the individual for whom Wheatland was built should have been "William H. Harding."



*Snowville Christian Church, Pulaski County. Credit: Gibson Worsham.*



*Suffolk Historic District, The Railroad Station.*



*Suffolk Historic District.*

*Virginia Manor, Rockbridge County. Credit: Dianne Pierce.*



*Trinity Methodist Church before the loss of its imposing steeple, Richmond.*



*Verville, Lancaster County.*

*High Meadows, Albemarle County. (Photo inadvertently omitted from Notes 29.)*





# Norfolk

## Preservation in One of the Commonwealth's Largest Urban Areas

"A collection of some of the finest early 20-century commercial buildings in the State of Virginia" is how H. Bryan Mitchell, director of the State's Division of Historic Landmarks described the newly designated Downtown Norfolk Historic District.

The high style of these architectural treasures had gone largely unnoticed and unappreciated until a committee of volunteers from the Downtown Norfolk Development Corporation (DNDC) determined to explore the possibility of historic designation for Downtown Norfolk's commercial district. A catalyst for this committee's efforts was the recognition that if residential reuse of the upper stories of these commercial structures was to become a reality as they hoped, incentives would have to be found to encourage that development. The attractiveness of the certified rehabilitation tax credits led them to consider historic designations as part of their downtown residential development strategy.

The City, while generally in support of preservation efforts, had not seriously considered the downtown's commercial district a candidate for designation and, much like staff members from the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, many city staff people felt that the limitations placed on developers interested in the rehabilitation of older properties, discouraged rather than encouraged development. Many inaccurate perceptions prevailed in the public, and the private sector and DNDC's committee were faced with a process of education and consensus building before seriously embarking on the research necessary to support a nomination.

According to a member of the DNDC, "One of the smartest things we did in retrospect was to bring into the early committee discussions representatives from both the City and the Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority." In these early meetings, a lot of time was spent exploring what was myth and what was reality in terms of the impact of designation on development.

Although technically we could have gone ahead on our own with only a majority of the property owners' consent to the nomination, it was very important to us that we have the full support of both the City and the Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority. By involving the public sector early in the discussions, they had an opportunity to learn as we were learning, and it avoided the need to spend a lot of time 'selling' the concept. The people we needed to support us 'bought in' and indeed became some of our strongest allies, helpers and supporters.

With much appreciated help from the staff at the Division of Historic Landmarks office, a boundary line was drawn for our proposed district. Properties within that boundary were owned and managed by a combination of absentee landlords, bank trust de-

partments, and multiple property owners who were essentially landbanking for future development. Few of the properties were small, and few were owner occupied.

Early in the process, committee members began to meet with potentially affected property owners and major real estate firms to discuss openly the implications, limitations, and benefits of historic designation. These "one-on-one" meetings resulted in developing a strong base of property owner support.

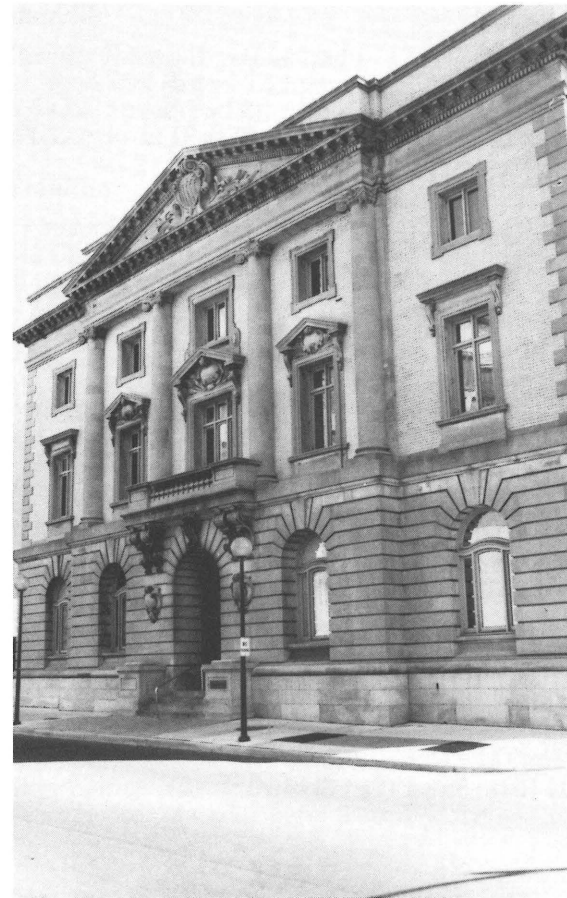
The committee itself was interesting in that it combined people who had a technical or academic background in historic preservation with people who had no background but a lot of willingness and enthusiasm to do whatever needed to be done to support the project. The committee divided itself into sub-committees working on various aspects of the nomination preparation. These sub-committees were charged with property inventorying and surveying, research, consensus building and media relations. Throughout the process, the support from the staff in Richmond and ultimately from the City's Planning Department became key factors in developing the nomination report.

As the committee's work proceeded, the project took on a life of its own, and benefits that were not even considered in the original goal statement became apparent. The media played an important role in piquing the community's interest, and just like "Grandmother's old table until someone calls it an antique", Downtown Norfolk's older buildings became viewed as assets rather than the liabilities they so often had been called.

Although tax reform has reduced some of the incentives that were present when the nomination report preparation began, the preservation tax credits as they stand today provide one of the few investment incentives that survived tax reform at all. As such, interest in the older properties in Downtown Norfolk remains strong. Already the 1907 Fairfax Hotel has been renovated to accommodate sixty-six middle income apartments, and the developer freely states that the project would not have been feasible without the tax credits.

Downtown Norfolk's Historic District is, and will remain, one of the best examples of how a group of dedicated volunteers can make a difference and change the opinions of community leaders. Patience, tenacity, strategic planning, and a strong volunteer commitment have given Downtown Norfolk the opportunity to preserve an important architectural resource for the future.

Cathy Coleman  
Executive Director  
Downtown Norfolk Development Corporation



Old City Hall Building, Downtown Norfolk Historic District.



Citizens Bank Building, Norfolk Historic District.

Rehabilitation work underway on the Fairfax Hotel, Downtown Norfolk Historic District.



## Certified Historic Rehabilitations in Virginia, October 1, 1986 through April 1, 1987

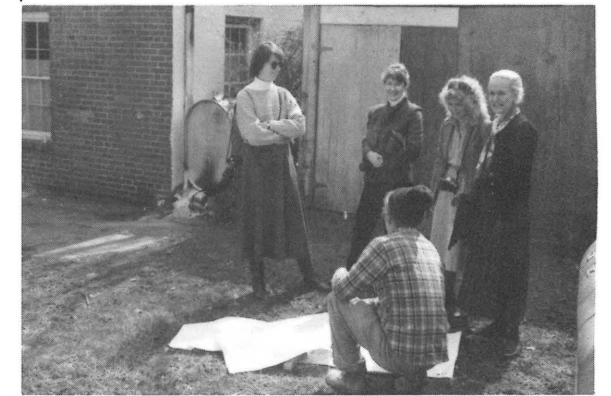
|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Alexandria</b>                                 <b>\$1,350,000</b></p> <p><i>Alexandria Old Towne Historic District</i><br/>906-908 King Street (Part 2)<br/>910 King Street (Part 2)</p> <p><b>Albemarle County</b>                         <b>\$41,092</b></p> <p>Spring Hill Farm Summer Kitchen<br/>(Part 3)</p> <p><b>Ashland, Hanover County</b>                 <b>\$160,000</b></p> <p><i>Ashland Historic District</i><br/>100 South Railroad Avenue (Part 2)</p> <p><b>Brownsburg, Rockbridge County</b>         <b>\$83,525</b></p> <p>Anderson-Patterson House (Part 3)</p> | <p><b>Charlottesville</b>                                 <b>\$1,462,449</b></p> <p><i>Rugby Road-University Corner Historic District</i><br/>Kappa Sigma Fraternity, 165 Rugby Road (Part 3)<br/>165 Chancellor Street (Part 3)<br/>Sigma Nu Fraternity, 1830 Carrs Hill Drive (Part 3)<br/>Sigma Chi Fraternity, 608 Preston Place (Part 3)<br/>Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, 518 17th Street (Part 3)</p> <p><i>Ridge Street Historic District</i><br/>511 Ridge Street (Part 3)</p> |
|--|--|



*McAllister-Andrews House in the Ridge Street Historic District, Charlottesville, after completion of rehabilitation.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Danville</b>   <b>\$58,990</b></p> <p><i>Danville Tobacco Warehouse and Residential Historic District</i><br/>835 Cole Street (Part 3)<br/>736 Lee Street (Part 3)</p> <p><b>Franklin</b>   <b>\$108,000</b></p> <p><i>Franklin Historic District</i><br/>312 Clay Street (Part 3)<br/>314 Clay Street (Part 3)</p> <p><b>Fredericksburg</b>   <b>\$938,098</b></p> <p><i>Fredericksburg Historic District</i><br/>318-320 Princess Anne Street (Part 3)<br/>317 William Street (Part 3)<br/>319 William Street (Part 3)<br/>818 Caroline Street (Part 2)<br/>709 Caroline Street (Part 2)<br/>531 Caroline Street (Part 3)<br/>524 Caroline Street (Part 3)<br/>214 Caroline Street (Part 3)</p> <p><b>Leesburg, Loudoun County</b>                         <b>\$74,280</b></p> <p><i>Leesburg Historic District</i><br/>5 E. North Street (Part 3)</p> <p><b>Louisa County</b>   <b>\$52,700</b></p> <p><i>Green Springs Historic District</i><br/>Depot House, Bracketts Farm (Part 3)</p> | <p><b>Lynchburg</b>   <b>\$43,253</b></p> <p><i>Diamond Hill Historic District</i><br/>700 Pearl Street (Part 3)</p> <p><b>Petersburg</b>   <b>\$160,000</b></p> <p><i>Petersburg Old Towne Historic District</i><br/>541 High Street (Parts 2 &amp; 3)<br/>136 River Street (Part 2)</p> <p><i>Sycamore St./Courthouse Historic District (Proposed)</i><br/>220 N. Sycamore Street (Part 2)</p> <p><b>Portsmouth</b>   <b>\$93,981</b></p> <p><i>Portsmouth Old Towne Historic District</i><br/>367 Middle Street (Part 3)</p> <p><b>Pulaski</b>   <b>\$60,000</b></p> <p><i>Pulaski Commercial Historic District</i><br/>220 N. Washington Street (Part 2)</p> <p><b>Richmond</b>   <b>\$14,148,846</b></p> <p>Central Fidelity Bank, 3rd and Broad<br/>(Part 3)<br/>Old City Hall, Broad Street (Part 3)<br/>Hasker-Marcuse Factory, 2401-2413<br/>Venable St. (Part 3)</p> |
|---|--|

*Old Maury Hotel, Fredericksburg Historic District, prior to rehabilitation.*



*Martha Raymond and Cynthia MacLeod of the Mid-Atlantic Office of the National Park Service, join Roberta Reid of the Division of Historic Landmarks and Susan Ford Johnson of Historic Fredericksburg, talking to George Newman, head carpenter at the Old Maury Hotel project in Fredericksburg.*



*The Fairfax Hotel in the Downtown Norfolk Historic District before the replacement of the cornice.*



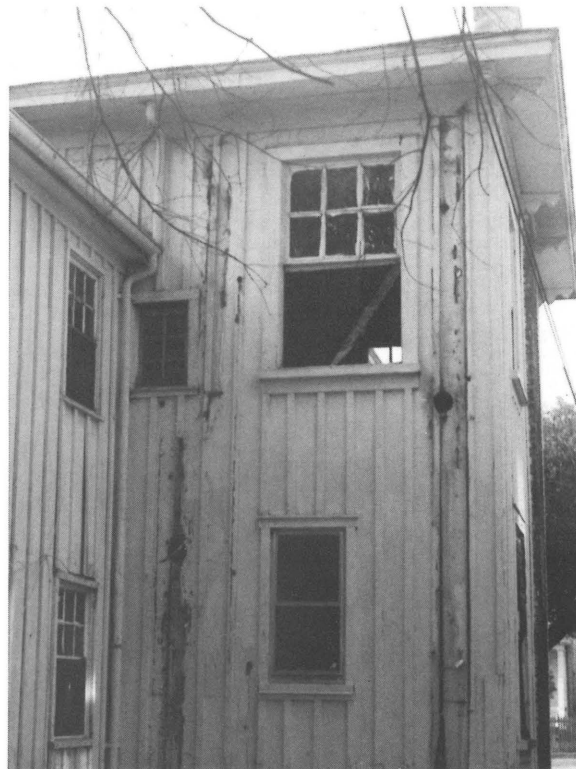
*The Fairfax Hotel with the reconstructed cornice. Downtown Norfolk Historic District.*

*Jackson Ward Historic District*  
 407 W. Clay Street (Parts 2 and 3)  
 405 W. Clay Street (Parts 2 and 3)  
 411-415 Smith Street (Part 3)  
 512 West Marshall Street (Part 3)  
 417 Catherine Street (Part 3)

*Monument Avenue Historic District*  
 2226 West Main Street (Part 2 and 3)  
 1831 West Grace Street (Part 3)

*St. John's Church Historic District*  
 2721 East Broad Street (Part 3)  
 2811 East Broad Street (Part 3)

*Shockoe Valley and Tobacco Row  
 Historic District*  
 2, 4, 6 S. 18th Street (Part 2)  
 1700 Dock Street (Part 2)  
 Branch Public Baths, 1801-1803 East  
 Broad Street (Part 3)  
 1720 East Main Street (Part 2)  
 1722 East Main Street (Part 2)



*William Morien House, 2226 West Main Street, Richmond Fan Area Historic District. Rear of west wing before rehabilitation.*



*William Marien House, after rehabilitation.*

**Roanoke** \$268,833

Boxley Building, 416 Jefferson St.,  
 S.W. (Part 3)

**South Boston, Halifax County** \$173,340

*South Boston Historic District*  
 1345 Jeffress Street (Parts 2 and 3)  
 1336 Fenton Street (Parts 2 and 3)  
 210 Factory Street (Part 2)

**Sperryville, Rappahannock  
 County** \$250,000

*Sperryville Historic District*  
 Old Hotel Apartments (Lee Highway  
 Hotel) (Part 2)

**Staunton** \$64,000

*Beverly Historic District*  
 103 W. Frederick Street (Part 3)  
 117-119 W. Frederick Street (Part 3)  
*Newton Historic District*  
 110-112 S. Lewis Street (Part 2)

**Waterford, Loudoun County** \$90,000

*Waterford Historic District*  
 Williams Store, 2nd and Main Streets  
 (Part 3)

**Winchester** \$97,602

*Winchester Historic District*  
 40-42-44 East Picadilly Street  
 (Part 3)  
 4-8 West Cork Street (Part 2)  
 308 South Cameron Street (Part 2)

**Total** \$19,778,989



*103 West Frederick Street, Staunton after rehabilitation of elaborate Colonial Revival facade.*

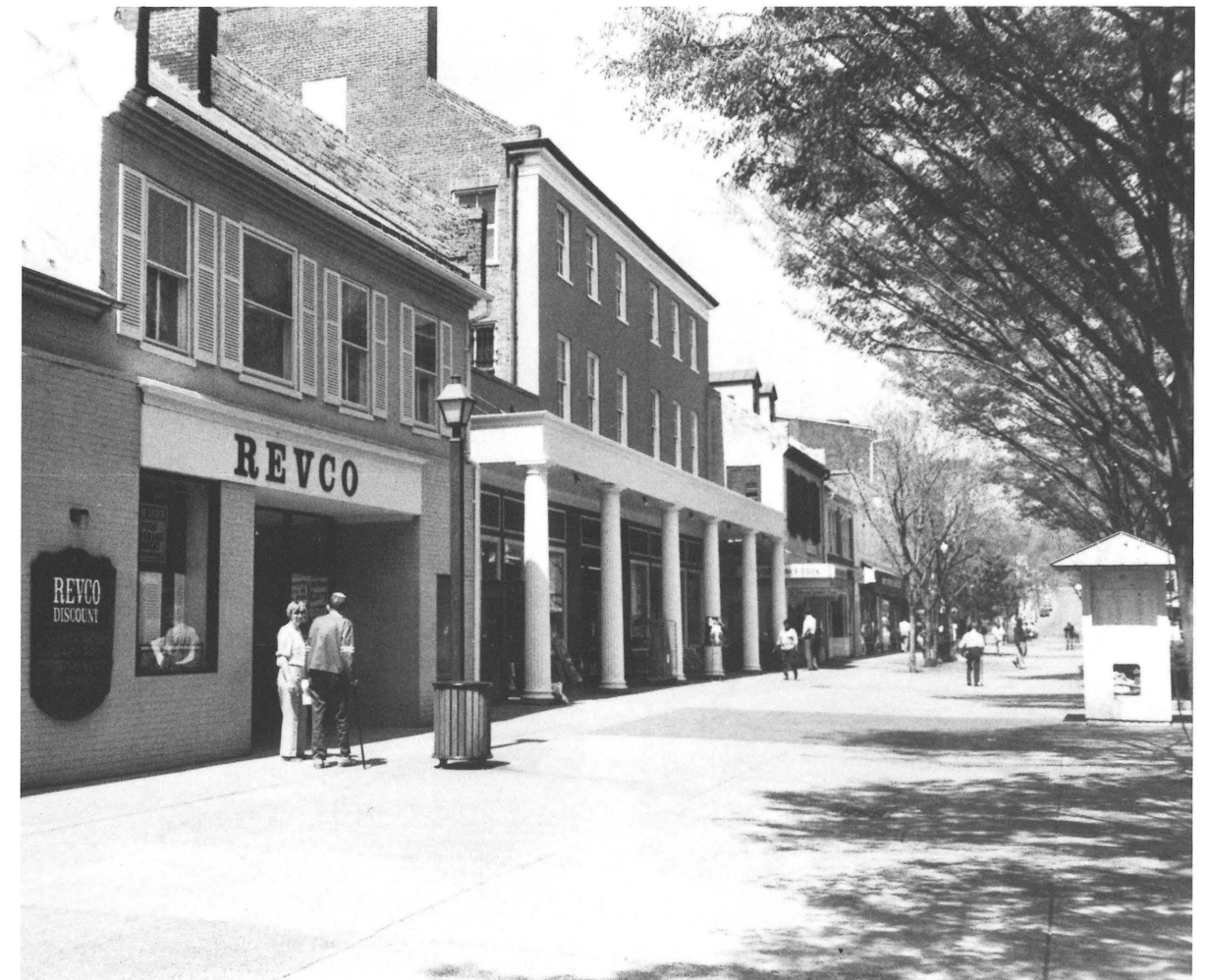
## An Update Main Street Program in Virginia

The Main Street program in Virginia is well into its second year. Under the supervision of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development with architectural design assistance provided by the Division of Historic Landmarks, the Main Street Approach encourages the revitalization of downtown areas in the context of historic preservation.

There are currently five Main Street communities in Virginia: Bedford, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, and Winchester. All five communities have National Register historic districts that encompass the Main Street areas of each town. In each of the communities, there has been a strong preservation constituency that has worked closely with the Main Street project managers. By the end of the pro-

gram's first year, Main Street projects accounted for a total of \$4,028,432 of private investment with 355 new jobs created and 121 completed building improvement projects.

The Division of Historic Landmarks has contracted with Frazier Associates of Staunton to provide design assistance to Main Street merchants and to encourage preservation projects that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation Projects. The Fraziers work individually with property owners, and they maintain close contact with the project managers in the five Main Street communities. Five new Main Street communities will be selected this year with announcement of the new towns scheduled for November.



*The Main Street Program in Winchester has been concentrating on rehabilitating second story space on the downtown mall.*



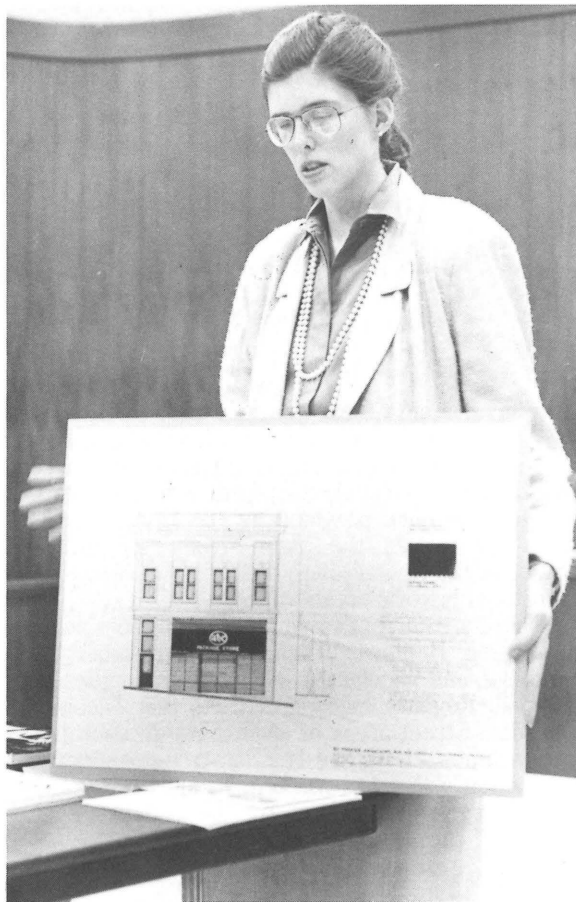
119 N. Main Street, Franklin  
Popes Department Store before cosmetic rehabilitation.



119 N. Main Street, Franklin  
Popes Department Store after painting.



This store has been in continuous use as a commercial structure since it was constructed in 1920. The exterior renovation was completed in November 1986 following the design work and specifications prepared by Kathy Frazier. City of Bedford.



Kathy Frazier explaining the A.B.C. Store design at a workshop in Bedford, a Main Street Community.



Painting and touch up on the historic Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford.

## Four Local Governments Attain CLG Standing in Virginia

The Division of Historic Landmarks has been notified that the City of Lynchburg, Prince William County, the Town of Culpeper and the City of Suffolk have gained Certified Local Government status. A Certified Local Government is a local government which has certain elements of a local historic preservation program in place. These elements include a historic district ordinance and an architectural review board to administer the ordinance which meet specific standards established by the Division. A Certified Local Government plays a formal role in the State-Federal historic preservation program through its review of National Register nominations for properties within its jurisdiction, through training and technical assistance provided by the Division specifically for the Certified Local Government to address specific local preservation concerns, and through preservation related projects carried out with funds that are available only to Certified Local Governments. The program is designed to improve the local preservation effort and strengthen the preservation partnership between the state and the local government. Grant funds are available to Certified Local Governments to carry out architectural or archaeological survey projects, to prepare National Register nominations, to develop design review guidelines, to provide training for review board members, to prepare preservation plans and to develop public education materials about historic preservation or the work of the local review board.

Lynchburg has conducted training for its architec-

tural review board and is currently printing guidelines for the ARB. City staff have photographed all buildings in the Court Street area of Lynchburg in preparation for establishing local design review for that downtown area. In addition, plans are underway for nomination of the Rivermont Avenue neighborhood to the Virginia and National registers.

Prince William County, with a CLG matching grant, is surveying additional architectural sites and filling in gaps in an earlier county survey. Consultants have been engaged to establish boundaries for and prepare a National Register nomination for the town of Buckland. A thematic National Register nomination for Civil War archaeological sites in the county is also underway.

In the past two years, the Town of Culpeper and the City of Suffolk as well as the City of Lynchburg and Prince William County, received funds from the Division to carry out activities which would make the locality eligible for designation as a Certified Local Government.

The Town of Culpeper received certification on April 15 and the City of Suffolk on May 6. A National Register nomination for a historic district in Culpeper was recently approved by the State Review Board. Information on that nomination will appear in the next issue of NOTES. A nomination for a historic district in the City of Suffolk has recently been submitted to the National Register of Historic Places.



The Courtland Building located at the corner of Court and 7th streets in Lynchburg.



Buckland Hall, one of the architectural resources in the anticipated historic district for Buckland in Prince William County.

## Jordan's Point, Prince George County

Jordan's Point has long played a significant role in Virginia's history. Occupied by Native Americans as early as 8,000 B.C., the area was the site of an extensive settlement of the Powhatan chiefdom in the early 17th century. It later was the site of one of the earliest English settlements along the James River, having been patented by Samuel Jordan in 1619. By 1625, the community of Jordan's Journey recorded fifty-five people living in twenty-two houses. In 1676, Nathaniel Bacon assumed the leadership of the rebel forces encamped on the property and began his ill-fated revolt against the rule of Governor William Berkeley. The property later became the home of Richard Bland II, a member of the House of Burgesses and one of the political leaders as well as an intellectual force behind the Revolution-

ary movement in Virginia.

For many years, Jordan's Point has been the site of the Hopewell Airport. Now construction of houses, condominiums, and commercial structures on 170 acres of the site is imminent. The Division of Historic Landmarks has allocated a portion of its limited archaeological salvage funds for archaeological work at this site by providing field personnel and equipment. The project is being supervised by the James River Institute for Archaeology. Work to date has concentrated on the first area slated for development. This particular area includes the remains of five buildings, a storage pit, fencelines, and several other miscellaneous features dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.

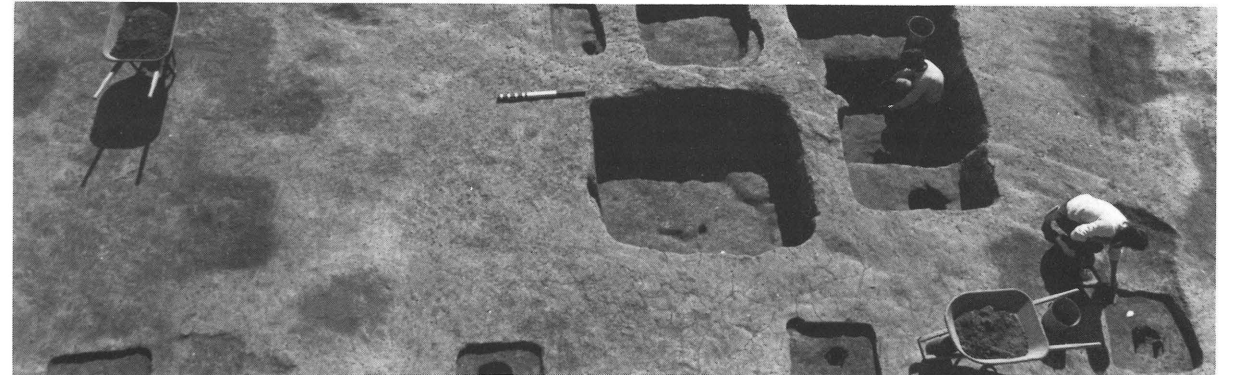


Horseshoes, snaffle bit, and harness brasses found at Jordan's Point.



Bottle recovered from Jordan's Point with clearly identifiable seal of Richard Bland.

Excavation of remains of post building underway at Jordan's Point, Prince George County.



## Additional State Grant Awards For 1987-1988

*Listed below are projects that received state preservation grants from the Virginia General Assembly for 1987-1988.*

|   |           |  |        |
|---|-----------|--|--------|
| A. P. Carter Homeplace and Store,<br>Scott County       | \$ 15,000 | Washington County Courthouse,<br>Abingdon                | 10,000 |
| Fredericksburg Old Town Hall                            | 40,000    | Salem Historical Society                                 | 15,000 |
| Old Gaol Museum, Warrenton                              | 10,000    | Siege Museum, Petersburg                                 | 25,000 |
| 1908 Grayson County Courthouse                          | 45,000    | Village View, Emporia                                    | 40,000 |
| Corp. for Jefferson's Poplar Forest,<br>Bedford County  | 142,000   | Historic Crab Orchard Museum,<br>Tazewell County         | 25,000 |
| Waterman's Museum, York County                          | 25,000    | John Fox, Jr. House, Big Stone Gap,<br>Wise County       | 15,000 |
| Old Russell County Courthouse                           | 12,000    | Batteresea, Petersburg                                   | 20,000 |
| 1810 Newport News Clerk's Office                        | 25,000    | Battle of Great Bridge Advisory<br>Committee, Chesapeake | 15,000 |
| Lancaster County Courthouse                             | 8,100     | Wilson Warehouse, Buchanan,<br>Botetourt County          | 25,000 |
| Belle Grove, Frederick County                           | 25,000    | Montgomery County Historical<br>Museum, Christiansburg   | 5,000  |
| McIlwaine House, Petersburg                             | 10,000    | Rock House Museum, Wytheville                            | 15,000 |
| Letitia Christian Tyler Burial Site, New<br>Kent County | 5,000     | Troutville Town Hall                                     | 25,000 |
|   |           | The Athenaeum, Alexandria                                | 15,000 |

## DHL Announces Survey Subgrants for FFY 1987

The Division of Historic Landmarks has awarded \$61,800 in survey and miscellaneous subgrants to localities and organizations across the state. \$9,293 was awarded to the Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton to conduct a reconnaissance survey of Botetourt County. Clarke County was the recipient of \$7,500 to conduct phase II of a survey of historic resources in that county. The Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia will complete a reconnaissance-level archaeological survey of Fluvanna County with a grant of \$13,238. With a \$10,800 grant, the Town of Herndon will prepare a complete inventory of historic resources in the town. This inventory will be used to identify significant sites and buildings and establish a town

register of historic landmarks and districts. Montgomery County will use a matching grant of \$11,570 to prepare a multiple property National Register nomination. In addition, the grant will be used to prepare an educational slide-tape program on the historic resources of Montgomery County for use in county secondary schools. Prince William County plans to use a \$10,000 grant to prepare a thematic National Register nomination for Civil War sites in the county.

Matching funds for these grants will come from the localities as well as from in-kind and volunteer services. All grant funds come from the Department of the Interior and are administered by the Division of Historic Landmarks.



*Wilson Warehouse, Botetourt County.*

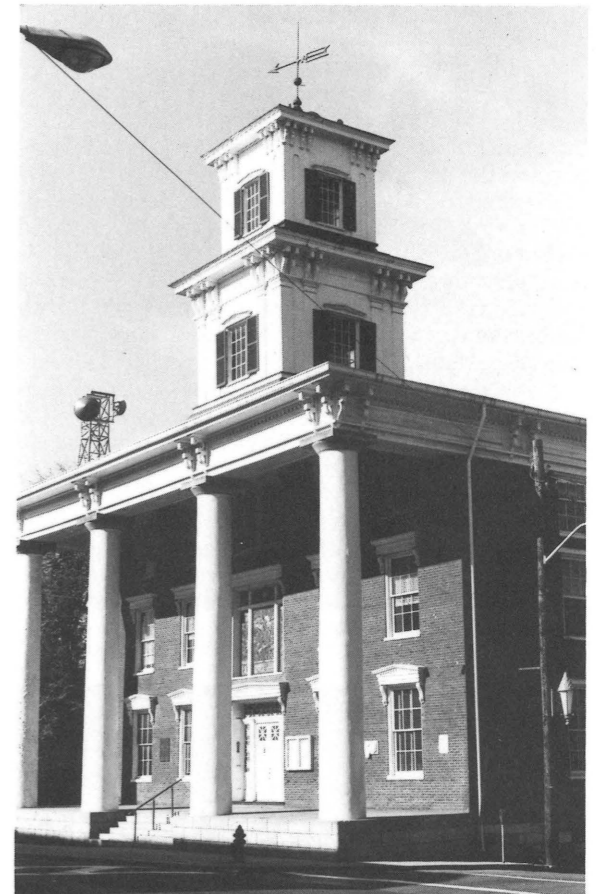


*Battersea, Petersburg.*

*Old Russell County Courthouse, Russell County.*



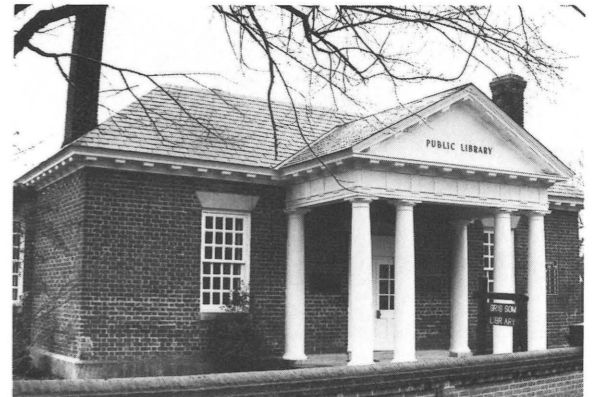
*Washington County Courthouse, Abingdon.*



*Wilson Warehouse, interior, Botetourt County.*



*Newport News Historical Museum, Old Clerk's Office, Denbigh.*



## State Embarks on Survey of Its Own Historic Buildings and Grounds

While more than seventy properties owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia are individually listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, and a still greater number of state-owned buildings are officially recognized as contributing members of registered historic districts, the ability of state agencies and the wider public to rely upon register designation as a planning tool is hampered by uncertainty regarding the potential eligibility of state-owned properties for placement on the state and national registers.

In order to address this important planning need, the Division of Historic Landmarks recently initiated a comprehensive survey of all state-owned buildings, structures, sites and objects that are forty years old or older. The Division has contracted with the firm of Land and Community Associates, Inc. of Charlottesville to undertake phase one of the survey, which will focus on the identification and evaluation of historic buildings, structures, objects, and designed landscapes at all of Virginia's state parks, public institutions of high education, and corrections facilities.

The Division's contract with the Charlottesville firm directs the consultants to meet with appropriate state personnel to discuss the survey in advance of site visits, to do a pertinent literature search, to interview persons who may have particular knowl-

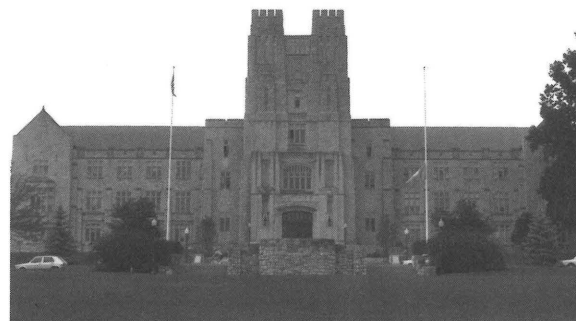
edge of the buildings and their histories, and to gather other information germane to a proper assessment of the cultural significance of the properties in their larger physical and historic context. In addition to photographing and recording architectural and historical information on historic properties at each site, associates of the firm will prepare historical context statements for various groupings of associated buildings to be inventoried, so that related resources can be evaluated for integrity and significance by cultural theme.

Scheduled for completion next spring, phase one of the survey will culminate in a final report evaluating the significance of the properties for register designation and recommending registration and protection goals and priorities for the inventoried resources. The final report will be distributed to all state agencies with management responsibility for resources evaluated in the report, as well as to the Division's Historic Landmarks and Review boards, for formal action concerning the nomination of qualified properties.

Subsequent phases of the survey will complete the evaluation of state-owned buildings and other standing structures and establish a plan and priority schedule for archaeological surveys on state-owned lands.



*A shelter building at Fairy Stone State Park in Patrick County, one of the resources to be included in the survey of state-owned historic structures.*



*Burruss Hall, Virginia Polytechnic and State University.*



*"Solitude," a historic resource on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic and State University in Blacksburg.*



*Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County, built in the 1930s, has interesting dams and roadways.*



*Sky Meadows State Park in Fauquier County; bridges and roadways would be a part of the survey of state-owned historic resources.*



*Sky Meadows State Park in Fauquier County has several historic buildings and sites.*

## Landmarks and Review Boards Visit Winchester

On April 20-21, the Virginia Historic Landmarks Board and the State Review Board convened in Winchester to learn more about the cultural resources and preservation needs in Winchester and Frederick County. The visit was initially conceived by the Honorable Alson H. Smith, Jr., Delegate from Winchester-Frederick, who was on hand to greet the two boards. Official hosts for the visit were Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc. and the Winchester-Frederick Historical Society.

In addition to tending to their normal meeting

agendas, the boards were given a bus tour and a slide presentation highlighting the need to survey the resources of Frederick County. A reception at Belle Grove clearly showed the beauty of the building and the fragility of its pastoral setting. The boards dined in downtown restaurants and walked the streets of Winchester, where they saw the effects of preservation efforts by Preservation of Historic Winchester, the Main Street Program, and the merchants of Winchester.





# Notes on Virginia

MORSON'S ROW



Division of Historic Landmarks  
Morson's Row  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
RICHMOND, VA.  
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