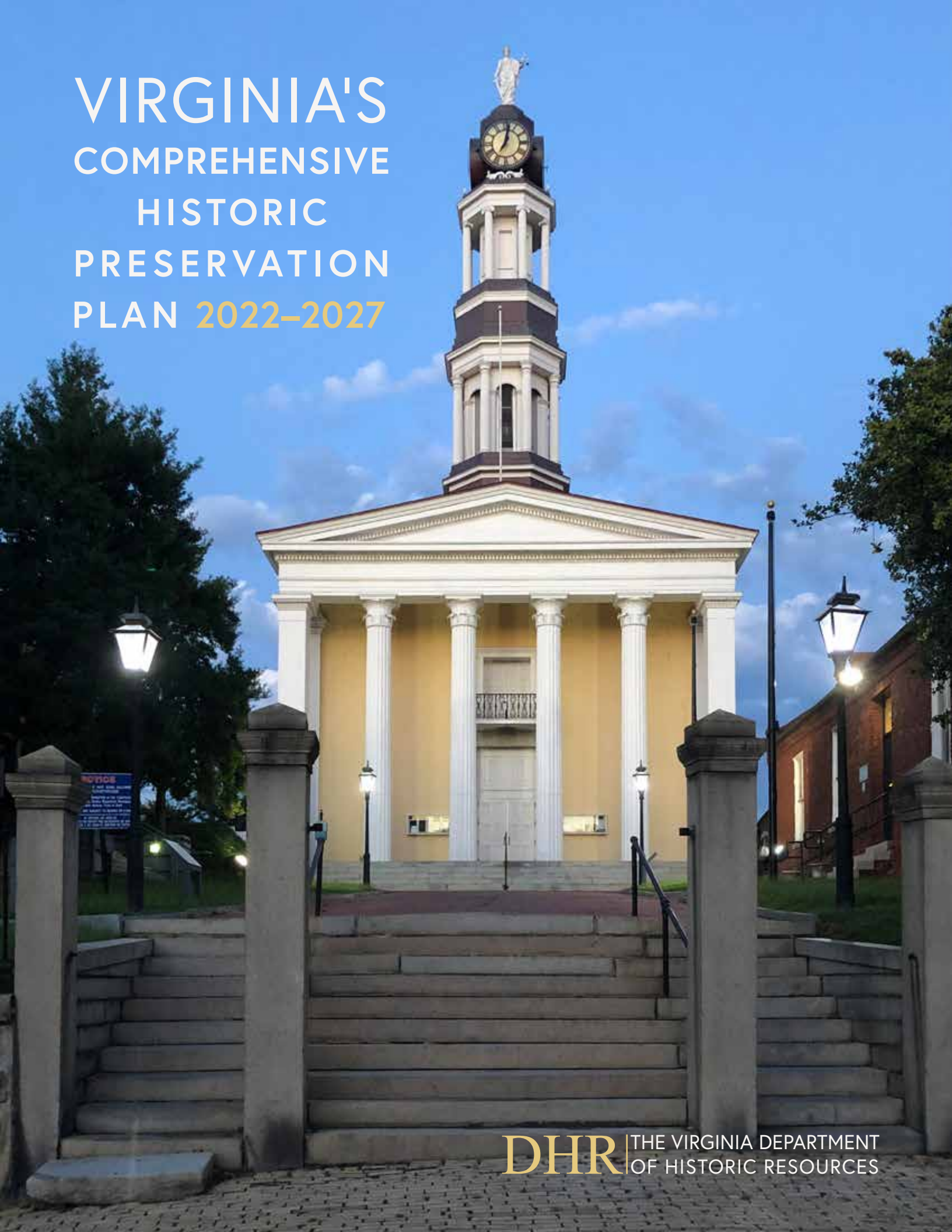


VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN 2022–2027





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COVER: Petersburg Courthouse, Petersburg. Photo: Kate Sangregorio (City of Petersburg)
LEFT: Near Scottsville, Fluvanna County. Photo: Brad McDonald (DHR)

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The statewide cast of this plan also reflects the contributions made by organizations across the Commonwealth such as Preservation Virginia, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Department of Transportation, Council of Virginia Archaeologists, Archeological Society of Virginia, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, American Battlefield Trust, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, and the many members of historical and preservation societies, planning and preservation commissions, elected officials, local governments, private consulting firms, educators, and interested citizens who responded to DHR’s statewide planning survey or submitted comments on the plan.

Appreciation also goes to members of the Virginia Board of Historic Resources and the Virginia State Review Board who provided insights, guidance, and approval of the plan.

Please note: Quotations used throughout the plan were selected from responses to the DHR Public Survey conducted in 2020.

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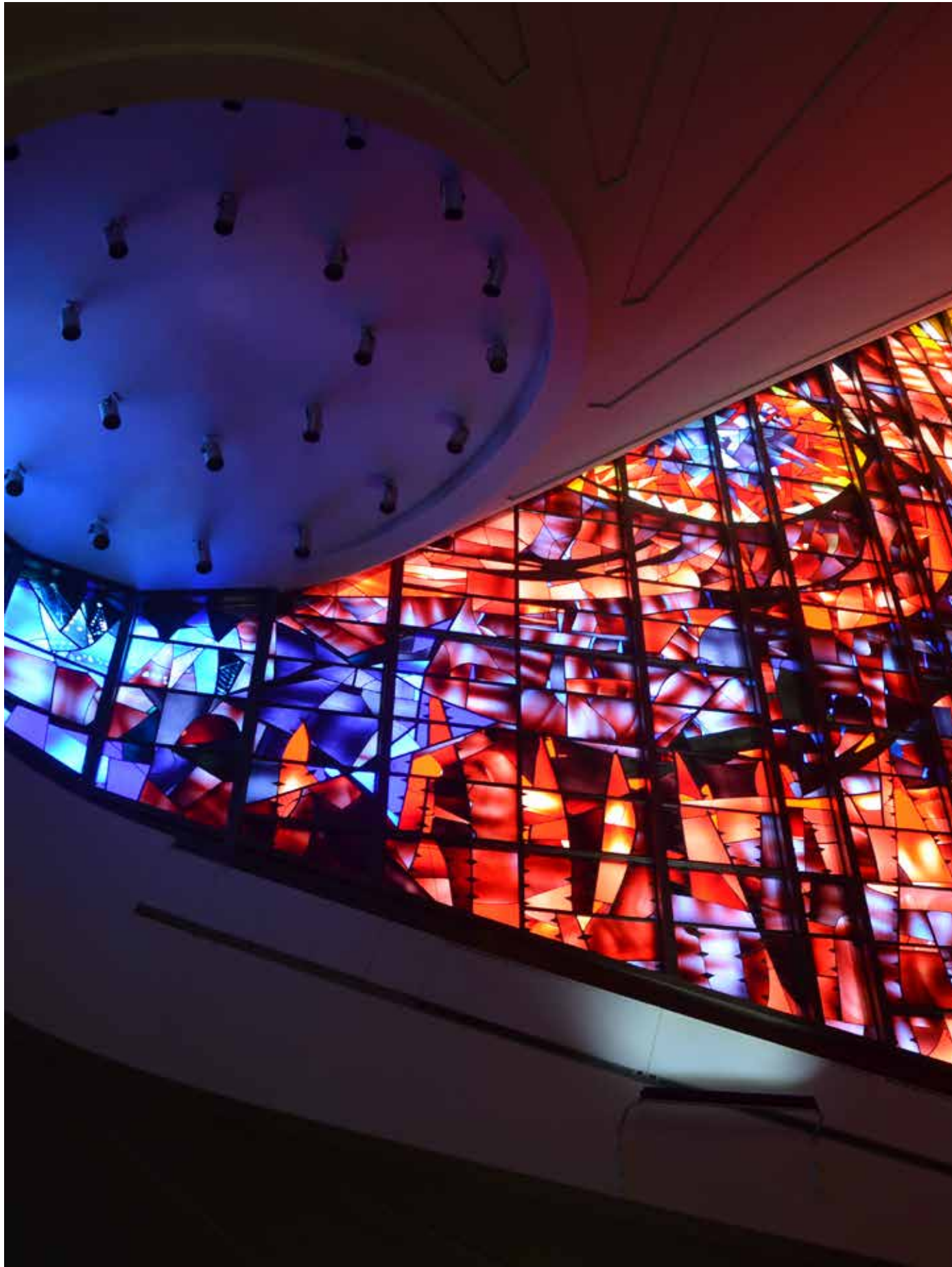
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A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

THE COLLABORATIVE PLAN that follows charts an ambitious path for historic preservation over the next six years in Virginia. It is built upon a foundation that blends institutional experience with generous input from the public. The credit for this effort rests with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) staff, the public who took the time to share their thoughts and Preservation Virginia, which generously shared the results of their own recent survey regarding preservation priorities. The trio of David Edwards, Jim Hare and Randy Jones made an awesome team that fully realized our collective vision for a user-friendly and attractive publication.

The preparation of a plan such as this naturally prompts us to look forward as well as to reflect on the past. Today, six years since our last statewide plan, the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's historic resources remains among the state's most valuable assets. But many other aspects of the world in which we work have changed, mostly for the better. For starters, DHR has experienced a dramatic surge of interest in our programs as the public perceives our mission and programs as more relevant than ever before. Without question, the trend toward historic justice has had a profound effect on how history is viewed and has influenced expectations regarding how our programs can, and should, bring attention and recognition to all aspects of Virginia history. In response, DHR continues to focus on under-served communities and historic topics that educate the public about the full range of Virginia's complex history. We have been able to do this thanks to increases in state and federal funding, while still maintaining our status as a national leader in regards to our annual numbers of tax credit projects, register listings and properties surveyed.

DHR's longstanding commitment to the use of technology to share information and expedite our work paid dividends during the pandemic. Staff was able to virtually and seamlessly manage our programs without any diminution of service. This experience served to renew our commitment to prioritizing our efforts to excel at data management and the use of technology to make information about historic properties readily accessible to the widest range of users.

Milestones such as the 50th anniversaries (in 2016) of DHR's inception and passage of the National Historic Preservation Act served as reminders that the field of historic preservation is still young and evolving. DHR openly embraces the inevitable and necessary change that results from the natural evolution and maturation of the field and we stand ready to help shape its future.

Speaking of the future, this plan envisions a time when historic places are more fully valued and recognized as assets for education, tourism, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality. It is built on the premise that everyone's history has value and that, because historic properties are a source of connection and pride, they play an important role in building stronger communities.

Julie V. Langan
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

LEFT: Houston Chapel, Randolph College, City of Lynchburg. Photo: Austin Walker (DHR)



ONE INTRODUCTION

AN EFFECTIVE statewide, comprehensive historic preservation plan informs, inspires, and represents the work of those diverse stakeholders who have shaped and continue to shape the future of historic preservation in Virginia. As Virginia’s State Historic Preservation Office, the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) is mandated periodically to develop and publish such a plan by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). DHR set a six-year planning cycle to correlate with the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Six-Year Improvement Plan; accordingly, the goals, objectives, and strategies outlined later in this plan target the period 2022 through 2027.

Although DHR has adopted the goals and objectives of this plan to guide its own agency programs, services, and efforts, the plan is intended for use by all Virginia communities and preservation stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth. While the plan reflects the preservation issues of greatest concern to stakeholders from all regions of the state, it also presents broad goals and objectives that stakeholders can adopt to ensure they have an important role in the preservation of Virginia’s irreplaceable historic resources.

LEFT: Saunders Steamboat Landing at Wheatlands (028-0044), Essex County. Photo: Brad McDonald (DHR)



TWO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

A **DEDICATED** and passionate preservation constituency in Virginia works with DHR to obtain common goals in the protection of historic resources throughout the state. Among the most obvious stakeholders are—

- Owners of historic places, both private and public, including family residences and farms, commercial and industrial buildings, battlefields, archaeological sites, museums and historic attractions, courthouses, libraries, schools, churches, parks, cemeteries, and various state-, federal-, and locally-owned public places.
- Individuals who live and work in historic buildings and people who visit or choose to live and work in communities where historic character is an integral part of the community's economy and quality of life.
- Educators and students, important to the future of historic preservation, who want to better understand our history through information, research, and the experience of seeing, visiting, and touching tangible reminders of our past, whether it is a building, special place, or artifact.
- Minority and underrepresented communities that have felt their heritage has been omitted from the traditional telling of the story of Virginia; important stakeholders, their voices and perspectives need to be heard and appreciated to ensure a more inclusive and complete story of our past is told.
- Elected officials, local and state government agencies, and organizations—statewide, regional, and local—that are dedicated to preserving either a small part or many aspects of our collective heritage are key partners to sustaining and promulgating the message that, as Virginians, historic resources and their preservation enrich our quality of life in the Old Dominion.

A particularly popular means of communicating with our stakeholders is through our DHR Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram channels. Multiple daily postings (on Facebook, more recently on Twitter) of news and points of interest by dedicated DHR personnel have collectively across all these social media platforms garnered hundreds of comments and opinions that suggest a strong public advocacy for historic preservation. DHR also sustains public outreach through our website, three newsletters, and press releases.

DHR documents of particular interest to various stakeholders are the agency's biennium Strategic Plan, annual Historic Preservation Fund reports to the National Park Service, quarterly State Performance Measures reports, and the recently adopted The Department of Historic Resources Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence: 2021-2025. All of these sources helped shape this plan and particularly emphasized the importance of accountability in bringing the plan to fruition and assuring its goals and objectives are accomplished over the six-year period.

LEFT: A particularly joyful dedication of the historical highway marker for Civil Rights leader Dorothy Height was sponsored by the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and coincided with the register listing of the Blackwell Historic District in Richmond. Photo: Marc Wagner (DHR)



THREE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

DHR BEGAN WORK on this six-year plan in January 2020 when staff began gathering and processing information in preparation for drafting the new preservation plan. The process has encompassed a combination of research, public participation, and the examination of previous Virginia preservation plans and the most recent plans created by SHPOs in other states. Other plans and reports consulted include—

- *DHR's biennial Report on the Stewardship and Status of Virginia's State-Owned Historic Properties*
- *DHR's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan*
- *The Virginia Outdoors Plan*
- *The Virginia Tourism Plan*

Also referenced were Preservation Virginia's public survey assessment; studies conducted by the Virginia Commonwealth University on the economic impacts of preservation and the rehabilitation tax credits over recent decades; various National Park Service preservation planning process documents; reports from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and others.

THE PUBLIC SURVEYS

PRESERVATION VIRGINIA'S STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Preservation Virginia (PVA), the state's principal historic preservation advocacy organization, invited the public to participate in an online survey in late 2020 that was especially useful in DHR's efforts to engage the public in its preservation planning process. Entitled, Stakeholder Assessment Survey, PVA's survey initiated the ongoing strategic planning process PVA began last year that informed a 2021 strategic plan that will guide the organization as it seeks "to inspire and engage the public in fostering, supporting and sustaining Virginia's historic places through leadership in advocacy education, revitalization and stewardship."

More than 150 individuals responded to the 14 questions in the PVA survey, while six affiliate groups were consulted, and several one-on-one conversations were held between PVA representatives and key preservation partners in the state. This outreach resulted in the following summary of key questions and responses compiled by David J. Brown, Preservation Virginia consultant, principal with Bearden Brown, LLC, and former chief preservation officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

What are the key priorities for preservation today?

PVA asked the participants to highlight key priorities for today's preservation movement. Many responded with some variation of the following: "Acknowledge and work to address the crises we now face on at least three fronts—economic, social justice, and health—while working to define preservation's relevance to each."

LEFT: Interior of the Mason-Dorton School Store (083-5019) in Russell County. Photo: Brad McDonald (DHR)

- Many of those on the calls encouraged preservationists to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in identifying the places worth preserving and the stories to tell, in all their complexity. In doing so, preservationists should stand up for the truth of the broader story. We heard calls that were forward looking, honoring traditional places while examining what they bring to life today.
- There were also calls to protect key preservation tools, such as the historic rehabilitation tax credits, while pushing for additional incentives and tools such as flexible building codes for use in the revitalization of Virginia’s historic communities.
- We also asked our survey participants what existing strengths or attributes will be most important in responding to the current issues, activities and trends in the Commonwealth. They ranked their top three responses as (1) the ability to educate the public and build appreciation in future generations; (2) advocacy with elected and government officials on behalf of history and place; and (3) the willingness to discover, listen to, and tell a broader history.

What current opportunities exist for working together more effectively?

There were many suggestions made in response to this question. One of the top responses related to making the board more diverse and instituting changes in the organization to create a sense of belonging. Partnerships—with co-ownership—were also mentioned as a way to build relevant programming. Strong, two-way communication was highlighted as a key to avoiding obstacles with stakeholders. Finally, we asked the survey respondents what three environmental factors were most likely to impact the work of Preservation Virginia in the next three years. They responded with—

- Changing demographics/growing diversity of PVA’s audience + general public (#1)
- Steep economic downturn (#2)
- Greater appreciation for understanding the full story of Virginia history (#3)

This summary gives a glimpse of the range of feedback received from the broad perspective of PVA’s stakeholders and allies, many of whom perhaps also participated in DHR’s public survey which was conducted

over a four-month period in 2020-2021. While both surveys produced similar results concerning priorities, concerns, challenges, and aspirations in the preservation community, each contributed to a better understanding of that community, and notably, the survey results will continue to lead Virginia in making its historic places stronger, more vital, and economically sustainable now and into the future.



In Virginia, the statewide survey has been underway for 50-plus years. During that time, more than 265,000 architectural and archaeological properties have been recorded in the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS).

DHR'S PUBLIC SURVEY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN

The successful implementation of a comprehensive preservation plan is possible only if the Commonwealth’s preservation community shares its common goals and objectives. In an effort to obtain input from as many individuals, institutions, and organizations as possible, DHR prepared a 15-question online survey and promoted it through postings on our web homepage and repeated notices about it on the agency’s Facebook page from October 2020 to January 2021. DHR also publicized the survey through its quarterly online newsletter, sent it to historical societies and preservation organizations across the Commonwealth, and encouraged participation via invitations appended to DHR staff email correspondence with clients statewide.

A total of 554 participants completed the survey, representing individuals living or working in 73 of Virginia’s 95 counties and in 30 of 38 cities in the Commonwealth. When asked, How did you learn about this survey?, respondents provided the following answers—

- DHR electronic newsletter (146 or 26.4% of total respondents);
- A friend or colleague (101 or 18.2 %);
- DHR’s Facebook page (101 or 18.2 %);
- Local preservation program or commission (58 or 10.4 %);
- DHR Website (28 or 5.0%);
- Listserv (13 or 2.3%); and
- Public meeting (1 or <1% of total respondents)

Answers under “Other” included contact through: DHR staff; an archaeological or preservation organization’s website, Facebook page, or newsletter; and a notice forwarded from a public official or local government agency. These results indicate the most popular and successful way to engage the preservation community in Virginia appears to be through digital communication methods including social media platforms and by word of mouth among friends and colleagues. Another related survey question asked, What social media platforms do you regularly use now? By far, most respondents use Facebook (80.7%) followed by You Tube (53.5%), Instagram (35.2%), and Twitter (19.2%). Other answers were TikTok and LinkedIn. (DHR launched its LinkedIn page a month or so after the survey closed.)

Who participated in the survey?

The answers to the remaining questions in the survey provided us with a considerably positive reflection on the high level of interest our respondents have in historic resources and historic preservation in Virginia, as well as their age group, whether they identify with an ethnic group, and where they live. When asked, Which of the following categories best describes your connection to Virginia’s history and historic places?, the top five answers were—

1. History enthusiast and/or heritage tourist (15.5% of total responders)
2. Caring resident (14.8 %)
3. Local Historical Society (13.1%)
4. Preservation or Archaeology professional or consultant (10.1%)
5. Owner of a historic property (7.9%)

Other answers included: Government employee (7.0%); Non-profit preservation organization (6.6 %); Educator (5.2%); and a handful of journalists, genealogists, history commission members, and architects.

In which of the following age groups do you identify?

When asked, most answered 65 years old or older (40.6 %), followed closely by the age group 40-64 years old (39.3%), then precipitously falling to 25-39 years old (14.2%). Only eight persons were between 18 and 24 years old, and 24 people (about 4%) preferred not to respond.

The survey also asked, Do you identify yourself with any particular ethnic heritage?

Although the survey did not provide a list of ethnic groups from which to choose, most respondents answered that they did not identify with an ethnic group (46.2%), while close behind were those who indicated they did (40%). Sixty-five persons (11.6%) preferred not to respond.

All regions of Virginia were represented in the survey; however, the highest number of respondents were either residents of the Richmond metropolitan area or inhabitants of the cities and suburban counties of Northern Virginia. The following localities had the most participants:

1. City of Richmond (33)	11. Arlington County (11)
2. Fairfax County (30)	12. Fauquier County (11)
3. Loudoun County (26)	13. City of Salem (9)
4. Henrico County (19)	14. City of Charlottesville (8)
5. City of Portsmouth (18)	15. Albemarle County (8)
6. City of Lexington (17)	16. Prince William County (8)
7. Lancaster County (17)	17. Bath County (8)
8. City of Roanoke (16)	18. City of Fredericksburg (8)
9. Washington County (15)	19. Hanover County (8)
10. Shenandoah County (15)	20. City of Alexandria (7)

Most localities were represented by 1-to-5 respondents; however, there were no respondents for nine counties and three cities in the Southwest region, seven counties and one city in the Southside region, three counties on the Northern Neck, and two counties and one city in the Allegheny Highlands region of the state. Five respondents lived outside Virginia, most of whom were former residents.

The responses of the remaining nine questions in our survey reflected what respondents were most interested in concerning historic preservation in Virginia. Each question is listed below followed by a summary of responses.

Which historic resources in your area do you consider the most important to preserve?

Of the nine resource types listed from which to choose, respondents were asked to rate them as 1 = extremely important; 2 = important; 3 = somewhat important; or 4 = not important. All nine resource types are listed below in order of the highest rating of importance (sum of responses in columns 1 and 2) for each resource type:

Resource	1 = Extremely Important	2 = Important	3 = Somewhat Important	4 = Not Important
Archaeological Sites	379	126	78	5
African American Resources	308	171	48	10
Religious Buildings & Cemeteries	266	201	54	9
Residences	228	210	78	5
Downtowns	218	213	87	11
Rural Landscapes	229	188	106	13
Battlefields	200	177	114	30
Schools	141	225	145	14
Transportation & Industrial Resources	141	213	154	18

Responses under “Other” included (in no particular order)—

- *Resources associated with underrepresented communities other than African American (e.g. Native American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, Women, and LGBTQ, etc.)*
- *Monuments and statues*
- *Parks and public spaces*
- *Mills and millraces*
- *Natural landmarks*
- *Historic roads and stone fences*
- *Forges and furnaces*
- *Historic bridges*
- *Canal features*
- *Medical and public health sites*
- *Underwater archaeological sites*
- *Maritime heritage sites*
- *20th-century roadside architecture*
- *Springs resorts*

If you think it is important to preserve Virginia's historic resources, please tell us how you would complete the following statement: "Preserving historic places in a community...."

The respondents were then asked to choose up to four of ten given phrases to complete the sentence (see the ten choices in the table below). The highest number of respondents chose the following phrases, ranked by popularity, to complete the sentence above—

- 1. "...tells the story of Virginia's diverse history." —360
- 2. "...leaves a legacy for future generations." —338
- 3. "...creates educational opportunities for teaching about history and culture." —324
- 4. "...preserves community character." —274
- 5. "...demonstrates a respect for the past." —218

Answer	0%100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Tells the story of Virginia's diverse history	<div></div>	360	65.3%
Leaves a legacy for future generations	<div></div>	338	61.3%
Creates educational opportunities for teaching about history and culture	<div></div>	324	58.8%
Preserves community character	<div></div>	274	49.7%
Demonstrates a respect for the past	<div></div>	218	39.5%
Brings tourism dollars to communities	<div></div>	157	28.4%
Makes for livable communities and improves quality of life	<div></div>	150	27.2%
Creates opportuniites for economic development	<div></div>	142	25.7%
Reduces sprawl and saves farm-land and open space	<div></div>	117	21.2%
Has environmental benefits such as conserving energy and saving space in landfills	<div></div>	82	14.8%

Interestingly, all of the five top choices to complete the sentence suggest the respondents preferred linking intangible benefits to historic preservation, while the three least popular choices pointed to more tangible benefits such as—

- 1. "...creates opportunities for economic development." —142
- 2. "...reduces sprawl and saves farmland and open spaces." —117
- 3. "...has environmental benefits such as conserving energy and saving space in landfills." —82

Which preservation activities should the Virginia Department of Historic Resources give priority to during the next five years to preserve historic and archaeological resources?

Respondents were asked to rate nine given choices on a scale of 1 = extremely important; 2 = important; 3 = somewhat important; and 4 = not important. The most popular responses in order of importance are indicated in the table below based on the total number of responses in columns 1 and 2 for each activity.

Resource	1 = Extremely Important	2 = Important	3 = Somewhat Important	4 = Not Important
Promoting the preservation of archaeological sites	302	188	41	4
Partnering with local preservation organizations and planning commissions	280	206	46	5
Surveying to indentify building and structures	282	197	52	4
Working with statewide preservation partner	262	208	49	7
Recognizing the importance of diversity resources	291	178	58	10
Historic preservation training	229	226	68	3
Nominating historic properties to the VLR and NRHP	202	248	82	3
Federal and state rehabilitation tax credits	217	208	87	11
Funding programs (CLGs, Cost Share, etc.)	208	205	97	9

The remaining responses under “Other” included (in no particular order)—

- Working with the Dept. of Education to support the role of historic preservation in social studies curricula;
- Expanding publications and online resources for teachers and students;
- Promoting the incorporation of historic preservation in local preservation plans;
- Reviewing and updating highway markers;
- Improving enforcement of existing DHR easements;
- Conducting more public archaeology programs;
- Protecting historic monuments;
- Implementing a maritime heritage and underwater archaeology program;
- Identifying more cultural landscapes;
- Providing tax credits and mitigation for rising sea-level preservation projects;
- Seeking more state funding for preservation initiatives.

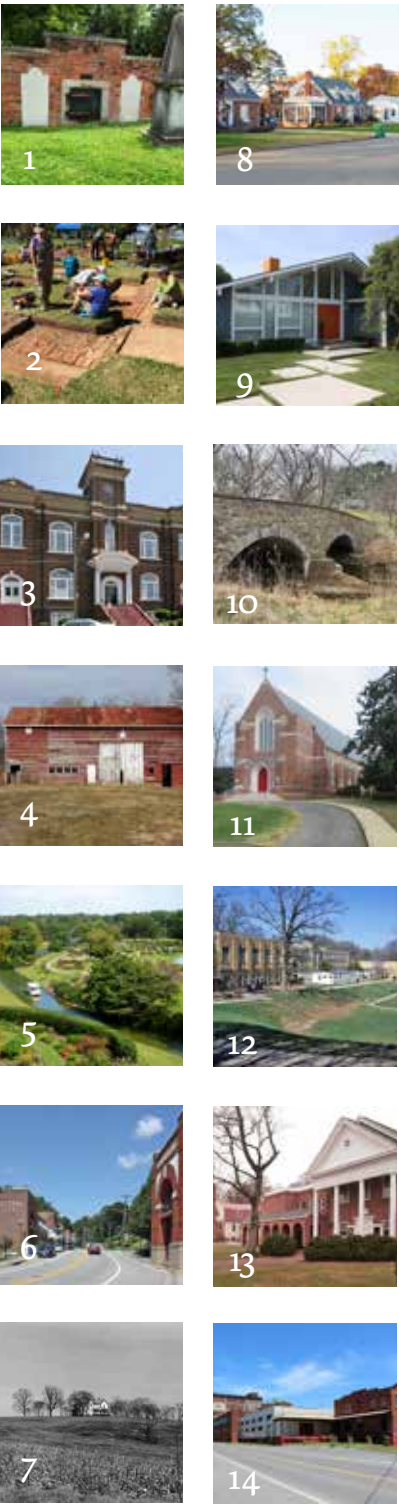
Which historic resources in your area do you consider threatened?

Respondents were asked to choose from a list of 14 resource types. Their choices are ranked below from highest to lowest in threat. Each resource type is followed by the number of respondents who selected it—

- 1. Cemeteries and burial grounds—354
- 2. Archaeological sites—320
- 3. Ethnic/minority resources and communities—277
- 4. Farm and agricultural outbuildings—260
- 5. Landscapes (parks, gardens, rural landscapes)—235
- 6. Downtown and commercial areas—209
- 7. Battlefields—155
- 8. Residential neighborhoods—147
- 9. Mid-20th-century or recent past architecture—145
- 10. Transportation-related resources (bridges, gas stations, railroad depots, etc.)—145
- 11. Religious buildings—127
- 12. Schools—115
- 13. Government public buildings (courthouses, city halls, government office buildings, etc.)—103
- 14. Industrial properties (factories, warehouses, etc.)—73

Among the 52 responses under “Other” were: monuments and statues; country stores, mills, and blacksmith shops; historic viewsheds; enslaved burial sites; college campuses; underwater and shoreline resources threatened by sea-level rise; and undocumented African American communities.

The top three responses indicate a high degree of interest in Cemeteries, perhaps due to the recently established and state-funded African American Cemetery and Graves Fund; archaeological sites, many of which perhaps are related to cemeteries; and Native American sites and ethnic and minority resources and communities, which have exhibited a large spike in interest during 2020 and 2021 which possibly results from the national examination of diversity, equity, and inclusion issues both in society at large and historic preservation practice.



Of the 13 following selections, which do you believe are the five most serious threats facing Virginia's historic resources today?

Responses, organized in order of popularity, were as follows—

Possible threat	0%100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Development pressures resulting in demolitions and sprawl	<div></div>	383	69.5%
Lack of awareness/intrest in historic preservation	<div></div>	371	67.3%
Lack of funding, both private and public	<div></div>	364	66.0%
Demolition by neglect	<div></div>	308	55.8%
Uninformed decision makers	<div></div>	304	55.1%
Lack of local protections (ordinances, staff, funding, etc.)	<div></div>	254	46.0%
Apathy	<div></div>	249	45.1%
Inadequate laws and ordinances to protect historic resources	<div></div>	218	39.5%
Vandalism	<div></div>	112	20.3%
Projects sponsored by private/public utilities	<div></div>	111	20.1%
Natural threats and disasters (including sea-level rise)	<div></div>	89	16.1%
Agricultural practices resulting in the loss or neglect of buildings	<div></div>	83	15.0%
Public works projects	<div></div>	45	8.1%

The top three choices (demolitions due to development, lack of public interest, and lack of private or public funds) stand out, each with over 350 responses; less popular choices then follow with around 250 to 300 responses, then least popular choices follow with responses well below 200. As the bar graph indicates, there is a wide range of perceived threats to historic resources among the respondents.

What five training, informational, and educational topics would be the most useful to you and your community in your preservation efforts?

Responses, organized in order of popularity, were as follows—

Training and Topics	0%100%	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Financial incentives for preservation and archaeology	<div></div>	367	67.7%
Recording and documenting historic resources	<div></div>	307	56.6%
Rehabilitation of historic building features such as masonry, wood-work, windows, etc.	<div></div>	266	49.0%
Stewardship of archaeological sites	<div></div>	256	47.2%
Documenting and preserving historic cemeteries	<div></div>	236	43.5%
Training for local preservation commissions and architectural review boards	<div></div>	233	42.9%
Preservation easements on historic properties	<div></div>	225	41.5%
Developing local planning tools, design guidelines, etc.	<div></div>	195	35.9%
Training on laws protecting historic resources	<div></div>	189	34.8%
Energy efficiency and weatheriza-tion in historic buildings	<div></div>	141	26.0%
Review of infrastructure/devel-opment and the potential effect of federal projects on historic resources	<div></div>	131	24.1%
State and National Register nomination process	<div></div>	114	21.0%

Respondents seem clear in their desire for information and perhaps training focusing on financial incentives and the identification and stewardship of historic and archaeological resources. Among more traditional topics is the rising interest in the documentation of historic cemeteries.

Surprising is the seemingly low interest in the State and National Register process, which seems to contradict the increasing popularity of listing properties on the registers and the expanding demands on the time and at-tention of many DHR staff connected to the Register program.

What do you consider the five most effective methods that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources can use to provide historic preservation information to the public?

Respondents were able to choose five of ten choices, which were ranked as follows—

1. DHR’s website—410
2. Training workshops (technical, planning, etc.)—363
3. Public outreach events—343
4. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)—292
5. Access to DHR by telephone and email—252
6. Volunteer and intern opportunities—243
7. Publications—211
8. On-site staff assistance—206
9. Exhibits—152
10. Off-site technical assistance—136

Perhaps the pandemic restrictions of 2020 especially influenced the respondents’ emphasis on digital and virtu-al methods of communication (DHR’s website) as the most effective tools by which to provide information to the preservation community.

The next two questions of the survey focused on more personal views concerning historic preservation and pro-vided space for written responses. There were 423 responses to the dual questions.

How do your friends/family members perceive historic preservation? Is it important to them?

Most responses were short—“yes” or “no”; many people offered more lengthy responses, some explaining the extent to which historic preservation has an important impact on their families and friends. Many indicated that because they were interested or professionally involved in historic preservation, their friends and family members were most likely to be interested too. Only 41 out of 423 respondents clearly stated their families and friends were definitely not interested; however, 51 respondents suggested their friends and family members were only somewhat interested, perhaps indicating among other things a lack of understanding or apathy. Only five respondents indicated they were not sure what their friends or family members believed about historic preserva-tion. Below are several responses that represent a range of answers to the second of the two questions—

“They seem to enjoy historic buildings/areas that have been preserved and repurposed but do not seem overly interested in the actual process or the work/energy/time/resources that are behind the preservation process. I think it is important to them, but not hugely.”

“Although there are a select few that are interested in historic preservation, we find that most people are rather apathetic. The primary problem here is in helping them understand just how much history is around them and how important it is in understanding our culture.”

“It is valued but taken for granted; the assumption is that these resources of our past will always be preserved, but it is not realized how much dedication and effort is required to preserve and protect them.”

The last survey question (below) was related to the previous one, but it provided an opportunity for respondents’ most personal views on historic preservation. It was answered by 437 respondents who were asked—

Broadly, do you see historic preservation as a community value?

Assuming that most people who completed the survey were likely involved or interested in history or preservation, it is not surprising that the vast majority thought historic preservation was definitely a positive community value. Only a small number of respondents disagreed. Below is a selection of responses, most of which reflects the importance of historic preservation to many in a meaningful, passionate, and dynamic way.

Historic preservation is one of the most under-recognized civic education programs we have. There are countless benefits to protecting locations, structures, objects of the past. The greatest fruits of historic preservation are raising awareness about who we are and where we are going as communities, improving intellectual curiosity among the general public, and helping people imagining a better tomorrow by understanding the past.

Yes, historic preservation is a community value. Value denotes the degree of importance assigned to some thing or action. If a community collectively does not see the importance, worth, or usefulness of preservation, behaviors and activities can cause repercussive, irrevocable damage to the resources within a community, and social wellbeing and social interests suffer.

Absolutely. Whether people are conscious of it or not, historic buildings and sites contribute to the quality of their lives. The character of a community benefits from preserving its past—at least a significant part of it—in physical, emotional and educational ways.

Yes. Preservation preserves historic reminders of the past. Preservation helps contextualize our present by reminding us of our past. That’s why more focus and funding needs to be given to sites traditionally underfunded or ignored, especially Black cultural sites.

Absolutely. Historic preservation is a large umbrella under which live several active and passive elements. Many of these elements, such as active renewal and stabilization of historic fabrics/landscapes contribute to local and regional economies and the benefit is usually a publicly-viewable asset to the visual landscape. Engaging archaeological sites, even through the monitoring process, has great potential for community engagement. Last, historic preservation as a whole is a wonderful tool for public discourse and should encourage meaningful conversations about a complex past, and present.

Yes. Deliberate, thoughtful, and targeted preservation provides communities with a sense of place and brings other benefits (cultural, economic, etc.). However, it is only a community value if preservationists actually understand the needs and interests of their stakeholders especially as demographics shift and there is a push for more social justice focused work in the field.

Absolutely. I believe that it significantly distinguishes our communities and allows us to truly understand and grow from our local histories in a visceral way. It also benefits the community by minimizing demolition and limiting the unnecessary waste of energy and resources.

PUBLIC SURVEY CONCLUSION

The Department of Historic Resources was especially pleased with the results of our public survey. Although 554 respondents represent a small fraction of the preservation community in Virginia, it is a larger number than expected for a survey that was posted for roughly three months during a challenging pandemic health crisis when historic preservation was one concern among many competing for the public’s attention. We are thankful for those who took the time to complete the survey and offer their valuable and varied opinions, sometimes strong and often emotional; their input assisted DHR in developing the goals, objectives, and strategies of this six-year Comprehensive Preservation Plan.

Keeping in mind that DHR seeks to serve all the citizens of the Commonwealth and all opinions are valued, there is a hesitancy to construct a “typical” respondent based on the data collected from the survey. Nonetheless, there is value in noting certain characteristics, beliefs, and preferences in the majority of our respondents that allows DHR to better identify our clients and serve their preservation needs.

For instance, based on the majority of data from the survey, the typical respondent is likely a person—

- 45 years or older (nearly 80% of respondents fall within the 45-to over 65-year-old range);
- Who is just as likely as not to identify with an ethnic group (46% did not and 40% did);
- Who lives in an urban or suburban environment (majority from either the Richmond or Northern Virginia metropolitan areas);
- Who prefers Facebook by far as a media and communication outlet (80%), yet primarily learned about the survey via DHR’s quarterly newsletter(26%);
- Who believes that cemeteries, archaeological sites, and ethnic/minority resources are the most threatened resources in their communities; however, also believes that the same or similar resources in a different order—archaeological sites, African American resources, and religious buildings and cemeteries—are the most significant resources to preserve;
- Who prefers that DHR focuses primarily on promoting the preservation of archaeological sites, partnering with local preservation organizations, and surveying to identify historic buildings and structures as the top three programs or activities to better inform and shape this six-year Comprehensive Preservation Plan;
- Who prefers more information and training through the DHR website, training workshops, and public outreach events to learn more about the top three topics—financial incentives for preservation, recording and documenting historic resources, and rehabilitating historic building features.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is fortunate to have a strong preservation community that cares deeply about historic preservation and the important role it plays in their individual lives, families, and communities. Those who completed both Preservation Virginia and DHR’s public surveys provided DHR with invaluable data for shaping Virginia’s Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan for the next six years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PLAN

Once the public survey data was sufficiently analyzed, and the most important directives were incorporated into a draft preservation plan, DHR’s Board of Historic Resources (Governor appointed) and State Review Board (SHPO appointed) approved the plan at their September 23, 2021 quarterly joint meeting, and then it was posted on DHR’s website for one month requesting comments from the public. Notice of the plan and links to it were also posted on our Facebook and Instagram accounts, on our CLG listserv, and other venues, all with a call for public comments.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS PLAN

For the last six years, the goals, objectives, and strategies of *Today’s Treasure—Tomorrow’s Trust: Virginia’s Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan 2016-2021*, have provided a focus and framework for DHR and other preservation organizations in the state resulting in many accomplishments that have strengthened the role of historic preservation in state government and communities across the state. During the most recent planning cycle, we have faced—

- *national and state economic hurdles,*
- *retirement of long-time employees,*
- *steadily (and gratifyingly) increasing state and federal funding allocations to DHR,*
- *an allowable and affordable increase in the number of positions filled by the agency, and*
- *a COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020 that DHR has met head-on, and which, despite unprecedented challenges, has resulted in positive opportunities and accomplishments.*

LAPSES

While DHR met all of the previous preservation plan’s five goals and 20 objectives, 33 out of the 133 strategies were not completed by the end of the six-year cycle. DHR Division Directors and staff were tasked with adding strategies to the agency Work Plan each year of the planning cycle; however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges, many strategies were not realized in 2020-2021. Another factor in this failure was the ever-increasing workload experienced by nearly all DHR personnel, even during the pandemic, as demand for preservation services by clients increased exponentially each year. This dramatic uptick in requests for services was only mitigated by an increase in new staff positions (and salaries) in the summer of 2021, thereby easing some demands on existing staff. In re-examining the 2016-21 preservation plan, some goals were too broad, complicated, ambitious, and impractical or unrealistic even prior to the pandemic; nevertheless, DHR’s dedicated and talented staff achieved the laudable accomplishments summarized below.

POSITIVE TRENDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From 2018-2021, DHR enjoyed unparalleled support from the Virginia General Assembly and Governor Ralph Northam’s administration, primarily through additional funding and three new positions for the agency (starting in state fiscal year 2022). New and amended legislation also benefited DHR and the preservation community during the past six years. However, one of the most effective gestures of support for DHR was the Governor’s appointment of Matt Strickler as Secretary of Natural Resources, the secretariat under which DHR is found, one of the most supportive Secretary of Natural Resources DHR has ever had the privilege to serve. In fact, the level of positive support DHR received during Secretary Strickler’s tenure is perhaps best reflected in the state legisla-

tion that changed the name of his secretariat from “Secretary of Natural Resources” to “Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources.” The new title suggests Virginia’s historic resources will receive full political and executive attention from state government into the foreseeable future.

The year 2016, the first year of the previous planning cycle, marked the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act and the enabling state legislation that established the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (the precursor of the Department of Historic Resources), the Virginia Landmarks Register, review of public projects for their potential impact on historic resources, and tools such as easements and rehabilitation tax credits to encourage private stewardship. DHR officially recognized the 50th anniversary by publishing hard-copies and online, *Notes on Virginia: A Special Commemorative Issue* (2016) that celebrated “50 Years of Preserving Virginia’s History.” The publication featured articles that discussed the history of preservation in Virginia, of the Commonwealth’s historical marker program, and our agency, among other items. Among the tools coming out of the National Historic Preservation Act was the mandate for each state to develop and follow comprehensive statewide preservation plans. That mandate is the foundation for this document, the most recent in a series of preservation plans developed for the Commonwealth.

BROADENING THE HISTORIC NARRATIVE

In the beginning, those associated with the preservation movement tended to focus on and appreciate high-style architectural landmarks and archaeological sites associated with famous Virginians to the exclusion of other historic resources of equal significance. To correct this disparity, DHR began to take deliberate steps to explore other themes and aspects of our shared history so that the record more fully represents the diverse story of the history of Virginia. While the agency has made much progress in these endeavors over the past two decades, during the past planning cycle, DHR has made it a priority to survey and register buildings, sites, and districts, and celebrate through the highway marker program significant people, places, and events pertaining to Native Americans and Tribes, African Americans, women, and other minority communities, as well as the recent past.

These efforts to broaden historical themes, topics, and listings on the state and national registers are representing Virginia’s history more fully. Moreover, these efforts appear to align with much of our citizenry, as evidenced by the call to better serve minority communities so strongly expressed in the public survey that helped form our present preservation plan. This dedication is also reflected in the state-mandated creation of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) plan, which DHR adopted in July 2021. That plan affects every aspect of the workings of the State Historic Preservation Office, including personnel, office environment, programs, and services. Entitled, *The Department of Historic Resources Strategic Plan for Inclusive Ex-*



Above: Lake Anne Village Center, constructed between 1963 and 1967, was the first village of the planned community of Reston, and as such is part of the nation's first zoned planned unit community.

cellence, this so-called “One Virginia” plan will ensure better representation of the history of underrepresented communities and attract people of diverse backgrounds to consider building a career in preservation and at DHR. It is a blueprint for achieving inclusion by creating a culture where employees, stakeholders, and residents are welcomed and empowered. Another important agency step toward more inclusion occurred when DHR added a new staff position (beginning July 2021) devoted to that goal. DHR’s new Community Outreach Officer is a full-time permanent position funded by the Virginia General Assembly and specifically tasked with increased representation of historic resources for underrepresented communities on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places; the new position will also recruit and engage students as paid interns at Virginia’s historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER PROGRAM

Published in 2019, the first edition of *A Guidebook to Virginia’s African American Historical Markers* (produced in-house and distributed by the University of Virginia Press) acknowledged an important milestone as the inventory of highway markers specific to African American history finally exceeded 300 in number. (While the book is current through June 2019, 86 more markers pertaining to African American history were approved as of



Above. Dedication of the John Chilembwe historical highway marker at Virginia University of Lynchburg.

September 2021.) DHR’s most venerable program—established in 1927 as the first such roadside public history initiative in the nation—these markers document facts, persons, events, and places prominently identified with the history of the United States, the state, or a particular region within Virginia. Not surprising, during the first decades of its existence, marker topics pertinent to the history and contributions of individuals of color, and even of women, largely went unacknowledged.

Since the beginning of the program, more than 2,600 highway markers have been erected throughout the state, including over 700 new markers added since 2007 when UVA Press published the last full-blown edition of *A Guidebook to Virginia’s Historical Markers*. Offering a viable account of Virginia’s past, the program has evolved over the decades and is rooted in

the allure of special places that combine history, tourism, and education. The program has seen a steady rise in popularity with the public over the last few years. With upwards of 15 or more markers approved by DHR’s Board of Historic Resources at each of its quarterly meetings every year, 273 markers—145 of which are devoted to diversity themes—have been erected along Virginia’s highways during the previous planning cycle, 2016 to 2021.

Indicative of DHR’s devotion to broadening diversity among its new highway markers, around 2017 the agency began an effort to increase the number of markers that focused on minority communities. Since then, 48 percent of all markers approved and erected have cited contributions by Blacks, Native Americans, women, and other diverse communities. Typical of this inclusive emphasis, at its June 2021 quarterly meeting the Board of Historic Resources approved 15 of 17 proposed highway markers that recall places or events in Virginia’s African American history, including topics submitted by students who participated in Governor Northam’s Black History

Marker contest during Black History Month in Virginia. Among the student suggestions are markers about a formerly enslaved man (Dangerfield Newby) born in Virginia who joined John Brown’s Raid on Harpers Ferry, the “Father of Black Basketball” (Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson), and a Richmond woman (Mary Richards Bows-er Denman) who was part of a racially integrated network that passed intelligence to the U. S. Army during the Civil War. Similarly, at its September 2021 meeting, the Board of Historic Resources approved 16 out of 18 new markers with diversity themes including five markers resulting from another student marker contest held in May 2021 during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Virginia.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY AND TECHNOLOGY

Surveying historic resources lies at the heart of a good preservation program. In Virginia, the statewide survey has been underway for 50-plus years. At present, DHR has recorded more than 265,000 (as of November 2021) architectural and archaeological properties, adding them to the state’s inventory of historic and prehistoric sites. Surveys go beyond focusing on traditional historic landmarks such as 18th-century plantation houses or grand public buildings, churches, and courthouses, or 17th-century colonial artifacts. Surveys also include prehistoric archaeological districts, simple vernacular 19th-century dwellings, streetcar suburbs, planned communities, barns, and other agricultural structures. They cover riparian archaeological sites, bridges, cemeteries, factories, commercial structures, statues, tugboats, and structures associated with space exploration. In the last planning cycle, DHR regional office archaeologists and architectural historians committed to adding at least 50 new or revised survey files to DHR’s Virginia Cultural Resource Inventory System (VCRIS) every year, and each year the total, in most cases, far exceeded the committed number.

Nothing has had a more profound effect on how DHR does business than technology, especially during the last six years when DHR expanded and created efficiencies in its ever-evolving architectural and archaeological survey database known as VCRIS. This sophisticated GIS-based system has resulted in the addition of over 56,000 surveyed and mapped historic properties in our inventory since 2016. It has also made it easier for the public to access huge amounts of information and participate in DHR’s programs as well as enhance DHR staff’s ability to provide better customer service and productivity for the agency.

DHR’s Survey and Planning Cost Share Program assists local governments in meeting their preservation planning goals through the identification of historic resources. Since the inception in 1991 of the state-funded Survey and Planning Cost Share Program, more than 120 communities have joined DHR to conduct 150-plus projects in every region of the Commonwealth. As a result, each year DHR’s inventory of architectural and archaeological historic resources grows with the addition of more than 4,000 newly recorded properties.

VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DHR is a national leader in the listing of historic properties in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). During the last six years DHR has worked with property owners, consultants, and local governments to assist in the completion of over 181 (as of September 2021) nominations of individual buildings and structures listed in the NRHP and our Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR). Additionally, more than 63 historic district nominations have been listed, ranging from the Saxis Historic District, a mostly 19th-century port town on Virginia’s Eastern Shore to the Appalachia Historic District, a town commercial center for coal-mining in western Virginia’s Wise County.



Above. Artifact assembly recovered from the Millie Woodson-Turner Home site, one of the last remaining farms of the Nottoway's Indian Town.

Two sites (cemeteries) and three historic objects (two monuments and a statue) were also listed. During the same period, two Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) nominations were listed; one focuses on Ocean-front Resort Motels at Virginia Beach; the other sets out the history of the Nottoway tribe of eastern Virginia and includes a nomination for the Millie Woodson-Turner Home Site, one of the last remaining farms of the Nottoway's Indian Town. Although the Millie Woodson-Turner Home Site left possession of Nottoway descendants in 1953, it had an uninterrupted indigenous tenancy, making it the only Iroquoian reservation site documented (to date) in Virginia. DHR staff spearheaded the effort to obtain grant funding from the NPS in order to accomplish the work of the MPD and nomination in conjunction with the American Indian Resource Center/College of William & Mary. Artifacts from the site were analyzed by archaeologists on the project and donated by the landowner to the Nottoway who elected to have them curated and stored in the collections at DHR.

Since 2016 a steadily increasing number of resources—individual buildings, cemeteries, and urban and rural historic districts—have been listed in the registers celebrating African American history. Listed in 2020, for example, Hickory Hill Slave and African American Cemetery is a burial ground established as early as 1820 in Hanover County. Over the past 30 years, researchers and descendants have collected considerable information about the cemetery and those interred there. The depth and breadth of information that extends from the 1810s to the recent past provided the basis for nominating the cemetery for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places.

Also listed in the registers in 2020, the Diggs House in Norfolk, built between 1919 and 1923 for esteemed African American attorney J. Eugene Diggs, is significant for its builder's steadfast, forceful civil rights activism and his legal work that secured social justice for people of color throughout the Norfolk and Hampton Roads area during four decades of the Jim Crow era. Among his accomplishments, Diggs was instrumental in efforts that led to the desegregation of southern Virginia's public beaches and schools. Until Diggs's death in 1959, his residence also served as a "safe place" in the region for visiting eminent African Americans including Thurgood Marshall and Carter G. Woodson, among other acclaimed black artists, politicians, and public figures.

All of these nominations were presented by DHR staff to our Board of Historic Resources and to the State Review Board at their quarterly meetings. Some other notable properties listed in the registers in the last six years (March 2016-September 2021) include—

22 SCHOOLS including: Locustville Academy (1859) in Accomack County; Woodlawn School (1908-17) in Carroll County; Hopwood Hall, Lynchburg College (1909); Hargrave Military Academy in Pittsylvania County; Mount Vernon High School (1939) in Fairfax County; Campbell Hall, the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia (1970); and several African American schools such as Baker Public School (1939) in Richmond; and eight early-20th-century African American schools built with plans and partial funding from the Julius Rosenwald Fund including Bedford Training School in Bedford County (1930); John Groom Elementary School (1950) in Mecklenburg County; and Pine Grove Elementary School (1917) in Cumberland County.

18 CHURCHES including: Snow Creek Anglican Church (1770) in Franklin County; McDowell Presbyterian Church (1856) in Highland County; and St. George's Episcopal Church (1849) in Fredericksburg; among the list of 18 are nine African American churches including: Mt. Calvary Baptist Church (1892) in Orange County; Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (1893) in Harrisonburg; Shiloh Baptist Church (1913) in Middleburg; Alexander Hill Baptist Church (c.1870) in Buckingham County; First Baptist Church (1956) in Williamsburg; Third Street Bethel AME Church (1857) in Richmond; and St. James Baptist Church (1922) in Fauquier County.

19 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS including: Reed Creek Mill (1902) in Wythe County; Suffolk Peanut Company (1903) in Suffolk; Lynchburg Hosiery Mill (1900); Valleydale Meatpackers (1951) in Salem; American Viscose Plant (1917) in Roanoke; A. J. Long Mill (c.1850) in Greene County; Gish Mill (c. 1846) in Roanoke County; Sylvania Plant Historic District (1929) in Spotsylvania County; and American Tobacco Company South Richmond Complex Historic District (1911) in Richmond.

29 COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS including: Colonial Beach Commercial Historic District in Westmoreland County; Stuart Downtown Historic District in Patrick County; Chase City Warehouse and Commercial Historic District in Mecklenburg County; Norfolk Auto Row HD, Norfolk; Clifton Forge Commercial HD in Alleghany County; New Kent Ordinary (1736) in New Kent County; Mead's Tavern (1763) in Campbell County; Basic Construction Company (1945) in Newport News; Buchanan Theatre (1917) in Botetourt County; Lord Culpeper Hotel (1933) in Culpeper; People's Bank of Eggleston (1925) in Giles County; Markel Building (1966) in Henrico County; Mathews Downtown HD, Mathews County; Doctors Building (1957) in Danville; and Higgins Doctors Office Building (1954), Richmond.

16 PUBLIC HEALTH, DEFENSE, SOCIAL, AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND DISTRICTS were also listed including: Roanoke City Health Center (1951) in Roanoke; Manassas Water Tower (1914) in Manassas; Virginia Commission for the Blind (1940) in Richmond; Hampton National Guard Armory (1936) in Hampton; Culpeper Municipal Electric Plant and Waterworks (1933) in Culpeper County; Nike-Ajax Missile Launch Site (1954) in Isle of Wight County; St. Albans Hospital (1892) in Pulaski; Norfolk Fire Department Station No. 12 (1923) in Norfolk; Old Jail in Caroline County (1900); Craig County Poor Farm (1892-1921); Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin (1937) in Gloucester County; and Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District in Fauquier County.



Above: Campbell Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville (left); and the Old Jail in Caroline County.

84 DWELLINGS, 2 APARTMENT BUILDINGS, AND 8 RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS are included among the listed properties from 2016-2021 including: Oak Cliff (1792) in Halifax County; Schoolfield Historic District in Danville; Holley Springs Apartments (1947) in Richmond; Cavalier Shores Historic District in Virginia Beach; Rose Hill (1850s) in Culpeper County; Mt. Gideon (1778) in Caroline County; Llangollen (1830) in Loudoun County; The Wilderness (1816) in Bath County; Cedar Grove (1770s) in Halifax County; Blair Apartments (1949) in Salem; Doe Creek Farm (1883) in Giles County; Oceanna Neighborhood Historic District in Virginia Beach; Lake Anne Village Center Historic District (1963-67) in Fairfax County; Belvidere (1790) in Goochland County; and Highland Springs Historic District and Sandston Historic District, both in Henrico County.

HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

Through the federal and state rehabilitation tax credit programs, property owners are given substantial incentives for private investment in preservation, resulting in enormous advantages to the public. By facilitating financial incentives to rehabilitate rather than demolish neglected properties of historical significance, the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program exerts a powerful influence on their preservation so that their important stories can continue to be shared with future generations.



Since 2016 an impressive number of projects using federal and state rehabilitation tax credits have been completed in Virginia. That number reflects Virginia's consistent national ranking among the top-five tier of states for federal tax credit projects proposed, undertaken, and completed. In fact, the NPS's Annual Report for (federal) Fiscal Year 2020 shows that Virginia was #1 in the nation for approved Part 3 applications (totaling 108) for federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits (RTCs). That figure represents \$264,168,354 in Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses (QREs) for FFY 2020, placing Virginia at #8 nationally for QREs. More significantly, cumulative totals for RTCs between FFY2016 and FFY2020 show Virginia ranking #2 nationally for Part 3 (completed) applications with 456. That number translates to \$1,502,872,177 QREs, placing Virginia #6 nationally. Of course, Virginia's state RTCs boost participation in the federal HTC program. These numbers reflect the strength of the state program and the diligent work of DHR's tax credit staff.

Three outstanding tax credit projects completed during the last planning cycle are—

THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY, NORFOLK

The rehabilitation of the 1857-58 Gothic Revival church (*photo above*) is notable for archaeological discoveries made during the HTC project. While excavating for new plumbing, workers encountered a crypt beneath the floor. The church contacted DHR's professional staff, as well as hired their own archaeological team. The use of ground penetrating radar located numerous burials beneath the sanctuary floor. Historic research revealed that in the 1840s, a fire destroyed an earlier church structure on the property, and the 19th-century St. Mary's congregants chose to rebuild their new, larger church in the location of the old church's cemetery. Rather than relocate the bodies, the burials were encapsulated beneath the 1857 structure's foundation, and, over time, the history of the site was forgotten.

Because the full extent of the graves was not immediately apparent, the archaeological and architectural project scope frequently evolved. The continually changing scope required the involvement of multiple DHR staff members to coordinate a collaborative review process that jointly protected aboveground and belowground resources. The St. Mary's Church administration approached the situation with commendable sensitivity.

Outside of the archaeological investigations, the church undertook a significant architectural rehabilitation. The badly damaged roof structure was shored up and replaced as needed, and failing slate shingles were replaced. The building's beautiful sanctuary was rehabilitated using historic photographs as a guide. Systems upgrades were carefully implemented to avoid both architectural and archaeological impacts. Challenging but rewarding, the project required coordination between multiple staff roles at DHR and flexibility from all of the parties involved. The outcome is a beautifully restored building for continued worship as well as a significant increase in knowledge about the history of the site and the early church community.

CULPEPER WATERWORKS & POWER PLANT, CULPEPER

The Culpeper Waterworks & Power Plant (*photos below*) consists of two brick, Moderne-style structures: the 1934 Light & Power Building (a historic electrical facility) and the 1947 Waterworks Building (a historic water treatment center). In 2018, the buildings were purchased by a developer for conversion to rental apartments. As a tax credit project, the property presented unique challenges. The interior circulation of the compact Waterworks Building was characterized by double-height mechanical spaces crossed by catwalks—historic features that are not readily adaptable to residential use. The initial project scope proposed to remove the historic walkway railings and tie the catwalks into a new floor level constructed across the double-height spaces. This treatment would have destroyed the historic circulation pattern and plan features. In the Light & Power Building, the initial proposal was to install two levels of new apartments, which would have negatively impacted the historic, open character of this warehouse structure as well as bisected several full-height windows.

DHR staff met with the owners and the plans were refined, over several submittals, to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The revised Waterworks plan is a compromise between old and new. DHR



The Culpeper Waterworks and Power Plant (interior before left) was a challenging project that made use of the rehabilitation tax credits program to convert the industrial building into a rental apartment complex (right).

permitted a new floor level within the double-height mechanical spaces; however, this level was constructed 6” below the historic catwalks to convey its original status as a void. The catwalks and their railings were reused as corridors within apartments, with limited openings excised in the railings for passage between rooms. In the Light & Power Building, DHR permitted the two stories of apartments, but required plan revisions that preserved additional open space at the front of the building, which also avoided window bisections on the building’s façade. The impact of the project was a creative adaptive reuse of a distinctive and challenging building type that met the needs of the developer and also preserved historic architectural fabric and character.

HIGGINS DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, RICHMOND

Built in 1954, the Higgins Doctors Office Building (*photo below*) is one of the earliest “circular plan” buildings in Richmond. This purpose-built medical office structure was designed with the reception and waiting areas, patient rooms, and doctor’s offices arranged in a ring around a circular, central service core containing restrooms, mechanical equipment, and the laboratory. Between the outer and inner areas is a double-loaded corridor clad in natural wood paneling, providing quick access to all areas of the structure. Heavily influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, the structure features a horizontal composition, a flat roof, patterned concrete block exterior, a monolithic front elevation with a recessed entry, and a rear elevation that features multiple large expanses of glass opening to private courtyards that continued the circular motifs of the main structure’s design. At the



time of the structure’s listing in the registers in 2016-17, the building retained nearly all of its original design features, including the built-in furniture handmade by the original owner, and the landscape architect Charles Gillette-designed surrounding landscape.

A local business purchased the structure to use the historic building as its main offices, intending to retain and preserve the historic structure, features, and site while adapting the interior plan to better service a new use. One tricky aspect of the proposed new work was the creation of two new, accessible restrooms. The placement of these restrooms off a secondary hallway was sensitive to the

original design and existing plan features. However, the need to introduce two new doorways in what had historically been a hallway clad with a cohesive and unbroken expanse of wood paneling was of concern in such a distinctive and intact structure.

In order to serve the programmatic needs of the new use, yet also preserve the historic character and design of the historic resource, DHR staff and the project team worked to develop a solution to provide access to the new accessible restrooms. The new doors were custom manufactured to utilize the historic paneling so as to blend in with the historic cladding of the corridor walls. The resulting effect is that at a glance, the hallway retains its cohesive appearance, and only upon further investigation are the seam and door handles noticed.

PRESERVATION GRANTS

Since 2014, and especially during the past six-year planning cycle, the number of awards from historic preservation grant programs that DHR administers on behalf of the Department of the Interior/National Park Service and the Virginia General Assembly to diversity-related preservation projects now exceeds \$17 million. The National Park Service-funded Underrepresented Communities (URC) and the African American Civil Rights (AACR) grant programs have been instrumental in saving buildings and sites associated with diverse communities. One such project resulted in a survey of early-20th-century African-American Rosenwald schools throughout Virginia. Preservation Virginia, which partnered with DHR on statewide surveys partially funded by the NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant Program, found that 126 out of the 382 Rosenwald Schools and auxiliary buildings built in Virginia between 1917 and 1932 are still standing while 256 have been demolished. It also emphasized that, “the importance of these buildings, along with other historic African American schools, has galvanized their alumni as well as their children and grandchildren to embrace historic preservation as an invaluable way to underscore the enduring effort Black communities have made to ensure equal access to the American promise of education for all.”

The Underrepresented Communities Grant Program focuses on initiatives to diversify the nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2021, DHR was awarded an Underrepresented Communities Grant (\$46,970) from the NPS on behalf of the Solomon J. Russell/St. Paul’s College Museum in Brunswick County. The project will include public outreach events; the collection of individual oral histories; and an update of the St. Paul’s College National Register nomination.

The federally-funded Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief for Historic Properties Grant Program of 2014–2017 has resulted in a number of historic properties recorded and preserved in the face of rising sea-level threats and the creation of preservation plans that will, hopefully, thwart those threats to historic properties. Similarly, the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) for Hurricanes Michael and Florence (which is currently in progress) is seeing new listings of historic districts and other preservation benefits. Participation in the ESHPPF Grant Program mandates that DHR prepare a statewide disaster mitigation plan of action, which is an eligible grant expense; therefore, DHR has set aside funding from the program’s contingency budget to allow for a contract with an experienced CRM firm to help in its preparation. Both federal (NPS) funding programs are responsible for several DHR success stories listed below.



Richmond’s Third Street Bethel A.M.E. Church, built ca. 1857, is among the very few antebellum Black churches remaining in the country. The recipient of funding from the NPS African American Civil Rights Grant Program, the church is undergoing a multiphase rehabilitation.

In 2021, DHR was called upon by the Commonwealth to administer a number of Virginia General Assembly Preservation Grants. Included were a variety of grants made during previous state fiscal years to 14 projects in 12 different jurisdictions across the Commonwealth, many of which are diversity-related.

Another state-funded program has proven very popular since its inception by the Virginia General Assembly in 2018. At the beginning of each state fiscal year, DHR announces the availability of funds for the care and maintenance of historical African American cemeteries and graves. Cemeteries eligible for funding are defined by Virginia Code as those that were established prior to 1900 and intended for the interment of African Americans. While funding has been primarily used to maintain the grounds of these cemeteries, the funds can be used by recipient organizations to preserve and restore grave markers and monuments. In the past four years, DHR distributed over \$64,000 to local organizations to maintain 22 cemeteries statewide; many more are eligible for the program and DHR routinely approves new organizations overseeing eligible cemeteries each fiscal quarter.

Other state cemetery and graves funds distributed by DHR on behalf of the Commonwealth over the past six years include an annual appropriation to the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution to maintain graves of Virginia patriots of the Revolutionary War and, through state fiscal year 2021, an annual appropriation to the United Daughters of the Confederacy to maintain graves of the Confederate dead and veterans. (The Confederate graves fund is now terminated.)

The Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF), initiated by the Virginia General Assembly in 2006, has enabled several battlefield-saving organizations to compete for state funding, usually up to \$1 million annually, to purchase Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield lands or purchase easements from property owners. Any organization awarded a VBPF grant for a targeted tract must in turn convey a preservation easement over the subject tract to DHR's Board of Historic Resources. From 2016 to 2021, DHR awarded more than \$4.726 million to organizations such as the American Battlefield Trust, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the Capital Region Land Conservancy, the Richmond Battlefields Association, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and the Manassas Battlefield Trust to protect more than 2,563 acres of battlefield lands associated with the American Revolution and the Civil War.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND COLLECTIONS

The majority of the archaeological survey, field, and technical assistance activities of DHR are conducted by archaeologists stationed in three regional offices; Stephens City, Salem, and Richmond. Regional archaeologists assist with identifying or managing archaeological sites, conducting educational programs about area archaeology, and answering the myriad of questions citizens have about the artifacts and sites associated with the thousands of years of human occupation in Virginia. (In 2020, DHR launched on our website the blog "Ask an Archaeologist," which highlights some of the questions our archaeologists receive from the public.) DHR makes its variety of archaeological programs available to schools, organizations, and museums for teaching purposes. Integral to this classroom outreach are DHR's Archaeological Re-

source Kits (ARKs). One ARK covers topics in archaeology for Virginia Indians, another covers African American-associated artifacts and archaeology. These ARKs were loaned to elementary and secondary teachers all across the state during the last planning cycle.

Bolstering DHR's archaeological mission is Virginia's Threatened Sites program. Funded annually by the Virginia General Assembly, DHR awarded Threatened Sites grants to conduct archaeology at 32 places facing imminent destruction through either development or natural forces such as rising seas. The program has resulted in the excavation and documentation of dozens and dozens of sites since 1985.

In 2016, DHR and the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) teamed up to excavate the Great Neck Site in Virginia Beach during an annual field school with key partners like the ASV and its local chapters and the U.S. Forest Service's "Passport in Time." Such field school excavations have benefited public history and archaeology in Virginia for years. Other archaeological field school projects sponsored by DHR and partners during the last planning cycle include multiple field day investigations at the prehistoric and 17th-century colonial-era Eyreville site in Northampton County on Virginia's Eastern Shore; a tavern site in Hanover County; a possible slave quarter at Richmond Hill; and at the Hanover Juvenile Correction Center.

The state repository for archaeological collections is located at DHR's headquarters in Richmond (*photo opposite*), where millions of artifacts are housed that were recovered from nearly a thousand sites in Virginia. DHR's mission is to care for these collections. DHR also offers conservation consultation, long-term curation agreements, and technical advice about objects from our long history. One ivory needle case from the collections at DHR, dating to the early 1600s and recovered from a site called Causeys Care in Charles City County, helps tell the story of women in early Virginia. This artifact along with others from DHR's collection was displayed at Jamestown Settlement Museum as a part of the exhibit entitled "Tenacity: Women in Jamestown and Early Virginia." In 2019, DHR launched on our website a regular illustrated blog feature, "Spotlight on DHR Collections," to enable DHR's conservators or curator to discuss and highlight specific artifacts or collections.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION EASEMENTS

While many famous places have had their futures secured through conversion to museums or other types of public amenities, most of Virginia's landmarks remain in private ownership and thus are vulnerable to loss or destruction through neglect or changes in land use. Although change is inevitable, many owners of historic landmarks are concerned about the future of their properties and want to ensure the proper stewardship of these resources beyond their tenure. To meet this need, in 1966 the Commonwealth of Virginia instituted the Virginia Historic Preservation Easement Program, providing a tool that would enable historic landmarks to enjoy long-term legal protection while remaining in private ownership.

Through the easement program, a private owner has the opportunity to guarantee the perpetual protection of an important historic resource without giving up ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property. While the landmark remains in private hands and on the tax rolls, its existence and sympathetic treatment are secured for the



Detail, ivory needle case from Causeys Care site. Photo Kate Ridgway (DHR)



benefit of future generations. Furthermore, the property owner can often take advantage of significant financial benefits associated with an easement donation.

From 2016 through September 2021, the Board of Historic Resources (BHR) has approved a total of 73 historic preservation easements resulting in the preservation of 3,884 acres of land. These easements range from private houses on small lots in Virginia’s NRHP-listed historic districts to large agricultural estates and multi-acre battlefields. Examples include easements protecting—

- the intricately carved 17th- and 18th-century Custis Family Tombs in Northampton County donated by the Arlington Foundation;
- Wyoming Farm, a 458-acre farm in King William County containing a ca. 1800 frame house that may be the largest traditional central-passage plantation house in eastern Virginia;
- Jefferson Court Apartments, an early-20th-century frame and stucco residential block in the city of Danville;
- Castlewood, a five-part Federal-style house in Chesterfield County;
- Clarksville’s Queen Anne-style Morton-Sizemore House;
- Currie House, a personal expression of Modernism designed by the dean of the Architecture School at Virginia Tech; and
- many Civil War battlefield lands preserved in perpetuity by the donation of easements to the BHR from conservation and preservation organizations such as the American Battlefield Trust and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

Many of these easement donations are required if funding is used from the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF), the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF), and/or the NPS-funded American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) to purchase the land or purchase an easement from willing property owners. One of the largest easements in acreage donated to the Board of Historic Resources in the last six years centered on Malvern Hill Farm in Charles City County. The property figured in three wars. Lafayette encamped there in July and August 1781, and the Virginia militia made camp there in the War of 1812. During the Civil War it was the site of three battles. The pristine 472-acre farm with incredible historic integrity was purchased by the Capital Region Land Conservancy using a combination of several local, state, and federal sources of funding.

In April 2021, the Board of Historic Resources accepted a conservation and historic preservation easement over the Grafton Ponds Tracts in York County. The easement protects five parcels totaling 550 acres of largely unimproved open space and is representative of the easement



TOP to BOTTOM:
Custis Family Tombs, Northampton Co.
Wyoming Farm, King William Co.
Castlewood, Chesterfield Co.
Currie House, Montgomery Co.

program’s occasional involvement with several partners. A complex easement project, it also involved collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the city of Newport News Waterworks, which owns the parcels and will maintain them to protect the rivers and reservoirs that provide drinking water for the Newport News area. The tracts are located in the core and study area of the Battle of Yorktown (April 5–May 4, 1862), fought during Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign. Several defensive trenches, as well as an intact redoubt, are located on the tracts, which also contain multiple prehistoric and historic sites representing human use and occupation of the property from about 8,000 B. C. through the mid-20th century. Although the property is largely unimproved, a network of unsurfaced trails allows public access and passive recreational use.

A \$3.3 million grant from Dominion Energy’s Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton Transmission Line mitigation fund made the easement possible. Newport News Waterworks will continue to manage the property’s timber and land to promote protection of its historic and natural resources and area water quality.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Certified Local Government program allows DHR to recommend for certification local governments that have put in place key elements of a sound local preservation program in their communities. Designation as a CLG gives local governments a way to participate more formally in the state and national historic preservation programs. There are 36 CLGs in Virginia, the latest designated in 2019. CLG designation also allows a jurisdiction to apply for CLG grants through the federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Projects during the past planning cycle included—

- preservation commission trainings,
- two MPDs for African American resources,
- historic district surveys and National Register nominations,
- rehabilitation projects,
- publication of an architectural history of a county,
- structures reports,
- design review guidelines,
- archaeological assessments,
- a historic district handbook, and
- two cemetery surveys



Above: CLG Workshops give DHR staff and community members the ability to network with other localities that prioritize historic preservation.

Several CLGs in the past six years have used CLG grants to host training workshops for members of their preservation commissions or architectural review boards, and in the same period, DHR has provided similar in-person and virtual regional training workshops for local government boards and commissions. In 2018–19, DHR promoted three workshops and, due to high demand, added a fourth. The workshops were held across the state with two in Northern Virginia, one in Southwest Virginia, and another in the Tidewater region. That year’s workshops were by far the most successful, with three out of four being full at 40+ attendees.

The training sessions, presented by DHR staff, representing register, archaeology, tax credits, and survey programs, were very well received, with feedback noting the amazing depth and knowledge of the speakers, the ability to network with other communities, and the range of preservation issues discussed. Topics covered at the workshops included recent past architecture, sustainability and historic buildings, appropriate treatments for historic buildings, and Section 106 issues.

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

DHR’s Review and Compliance Division (RCD) serves to advise and assist federal and state agencies in determining if their projects will affect our significant historic/cultural resources and, if so, how to address and resolve these effects. Federal agencies are required by the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other provisions of federal law to consider historic resources in the planning and execution of their projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations requires Federal agencies to—

- *clearly define the scope of their undertaking;*
- *develop an area of potential effects;*
- *make a reasonable and good-faith effort to identify and evaluate historic properties; and*
- *assess the project’s effects when historic properties are present.*

If adverse effects are identified, the federal agency must consult with DHR on ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those effects. The process is consultative, and there is no prescribed outcome.

Under certain specific provisions of state law, state agencies are required to consult with DHR regarding the potential impacts of their projects on historic resources. Specifically, state agencies are required to consult with DHR when proposing—

- *to demolish a building;*
- *to submit applications to the State Corporation Commission for electric generating plants and associated facilities.*
- *under the Virginia Antiquities Act and other provisions of state law, DHR has responsibility for issuing or commenting on the issuance of permits for conducting archaeological investigations on state lands;*
- *archaeological removal of human remains and artifacts from graves;*
- *exploration and/or recovery of underwater historical resources; and*
- *collections within caves and rock shelters.*

In August 2016, after more than a decade of consultation, DHR joined the Federal Highways Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in executing a Programmatic Agreement that delegates major decision-making responsibilities to VDOT for its activities involving Federal funding, permits, or approval. This first-of-a-kind agreement streamlines consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and memorializes an efficient process for decision-making. Among other measures, the agreement commits VDOT

to re-evaluate findings under Section 106 after five years if the undertaking has not been implemented and re-establishes a cooperative effort to evaluate historic bridges throughout the Commonwealth and programmatically address their National Register eligibility and treatment.

In July 2017, DHR joined the City of Alexandria, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in executing a Memorandum of Agreement for the Ramsey Homes Redevelopment project in Alexandria. Ramsey Homes were constructed in 1941 by the United States Housing Authority as permanent housing for African American defense workers. The four 15-unit buildings were originally constructed in a modernist design implementing precast “Fabcrete” concrete panels. Ramsey Homes were located within the National Register-listed Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District and their demolition was considered an adverse effect on historic properties. Section 106 consultation through numerous public and consulting party meetings engaged 14 governmental agencies and NGOs, 15 residents of Ramsey Homes, and various local civic organizations and neighboring property owners and resulted in a finding of adverse effect and a diverse set of mitigation measures. Mitigation included the HABS-level documentation of a representative building, careful deconstruction to allow for the recordation of construction techniques, genealogical research on the residents of Ramsey Homes, a collection of oral histories, a public symposium on the history and significance of the Ramsey Homes property, and interpretive and wayfinding signage.



Section 106 consultation and mitigation at the 1941 Ramsey Homes included recordation of construction techniques and genealogical research of the residents.

DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION GRANTS AND COVENANTS

Grant assistance through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program is available for protection, stabilization, restoration, and rehabilitation work on a range of cultural resources that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district listed on the NRHP. Any locality awarded a CLG grant for a development project entails a signed covenant or preservation letters of agreement, as appropriate, prior to the release of funds. The covenant commits the owner to at least five years of continued maintenance for a building targeted by CLG grant funds.

During the past five years, DHR awarded CLG grants for two development projects in Danville. The targeted buildings are both located within the city’s Old West End Historic District—

- *at 864 Pine Street, Danville used a CLG grant in 2016 to stabilize and complete a façade rehabilitation of this Italianate residence.*
- *at 221 Jefferson Avenue, Danville supported the building’s rehabilitation with a 2017 CLG grant award. The Colonial Revival residence, the victim of arson in 2009, had sat vacant and without maintenance. The structural repairs included fire/smoke damage remediation among other fixes.*

After work was completed, DHR initiated efforts to monitor the projects for five years to ensure the buildings’ continued state of good preservation by the city or private owners.



Funding for a “development project” from the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief for Historic Properties Grant Program, administered by DHR and the National Park Service in 2017, benefited the community of Saxis in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore. The project funded the rehabilitation of a long neglected Crockett Store, a local landmark built in the early 1900s (photo left). The work entailed elevating the building and moved back from a road in order to protect it from sea-level rise; the project also restored a vanished historic front porch, and installed a new cedar shingle roof and extensive exterior siding, and repaired windows. The interior rehabilitation result-

ed in its housing an interpretative museum space (separately funded by the community). The museum opened to the public in September 2017.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Reaching out to all Virginians to engage them in a discussion of the importance of historic preservation and to provide them with tools and assistance to meet their preservation needs continues to be an important goal at DHR. Thus, an expanded and evolving website, three attractive and informative newsletters (one dealing solely with Virginia’s historic cemeteries), and a Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram presence have accounted for an ever-growing audience (the strongest being Facebook where the agency had over 26,200 followers as of October 1, 2021). Public educational and training events, once held exclusively in-person, became virtual events by necessity during the COVID pandemic. The switch has made such events more popular and convenient with much of the public and DHR staff; as a result, virtual workshops, seminars, and meetings have become routine at DHR and future events are likely to include both in-person and virtual accommodations.

ADMINISTRATION

DHR’s Administrative Services Division is responsible for all business and administrative activities of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Under the direction of the agency head, the division director plans and administers through subordinate supervision; reviews and evaluates all organizational functions and activities; and ensures that such activities are carried out within statutory, budgetary, and policy guidelines. Administrative operations include budget, human resources, procurement, information technology, facilities/office operations, and fiscal responsibilities. All state and federal grant funds are held and monitored by the Administrative Services Division staff and provided to DHR colleagues responsible for distribution to organizations, local governments, and other clients to support various programs such as—

- CLG grants; state-funded Cost Share (survey and planning) grants;
- the African American Cemetery and Graves Fund; Revolutionary War Cemetery and Graves Fund;
- Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund; and,
- several federally-funded programs such as the Underrepresented Communities Grants program, the Civil Rights Grants program, and the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund.

Over the last six years millions of state and federal dollars have been responsibly and transparently distributed to clients to support many worthy preservation projects throughout Virginia.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Governor’s Office and the Virginia General Assembly often rely on DHR to create, execute, and administer special projects related to Virginia history that go beyond the day-to-day duties of the agency. For example, in 2020 DHR was called upon to administer the Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol. The Virginia General Assembly created and tasked the Commission with studying the removal and replacement of the Robert E. Lee statue in the Capitol’s Statuary Hall, where each state is entitled to have two statues (Virginia’s other statue is of George Washington).

The public lengthy process evaluated replacement candidates submitted by the public—including numerous students—to be Virginia’s new contribution to the Statuary Hall collection. The Commission’s recommendations, approved by the Governor and the General Assembly, resulted in the removal of the Lee statue from the Capitol to the collections of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond.

The Commission also recommended civil rights icon Barbara Rose Johns to be commemorated with a new statue destined for inclusion in the Capitol. The statue will depict Johns as she appeared at age 16 in 1951, when she led her classmates at Robert Russa Moton High School in a strike to protest the substandard conditions at the segregated facility. Those actions eventually resulted in the lawsuit *Davis v. Prince Edward County* that, in 1954, became one of five cases that the U. S. Supreme Court considered in *Brown v. Board of Education*, when it ruled segregation unconstitutional. (As of July 2021, the Commission was in the process of selecting a sculptor to create the statue.)



Above: Barbara Rose Johns, photo: Moton Museum.
Right: George Washington statue, photo: Architect of the Capitol.

DHR SUCCESS STORIES 2016-2021

Virginia's Department of Historic Resources continues to perform and deliver services in core programs to communities throughout the Commonwealth. The federal Historic Preservation Fund and state match support these programs and associated staff, yet this only partially meets growing needs. DHR also leverages a range of public

and private partnerships that embrace historic preservation goals. This mix of federal and state funding and innovative programs and partnerships attracts communities, rural and urban, throughout Virginia to use historic preservation strategies. This synergy engages local preservationists, businesses, developers, tradesmen, entrepreneurs, elected officials, and property owners in a more deliberative approach to planning and caring for historic resources. While DHR remains a small state agency, its impact is large.

The following success stories, along with those already mentioned above, highlight stellar achievements during the past six years in our core programs.



2016

Summerseat (photo above), a 19th-century dwelling in Ettrick (Chesterfield County) was slated for demolition, before DHR partnered with state owner, Virginia State University, the Cameron Foundation, and HistoriCorps© to save the building while providing training in preservation trades skills to students over the summer of 2016. Summerseat served as a demonstration project for HistoriCorps and created the opportunity for the organization to establish a local preservation program to serve other historic structures in the region. The building's "raised cottage" house form is architecturally significant, as few others of its type still exist in Virginia.

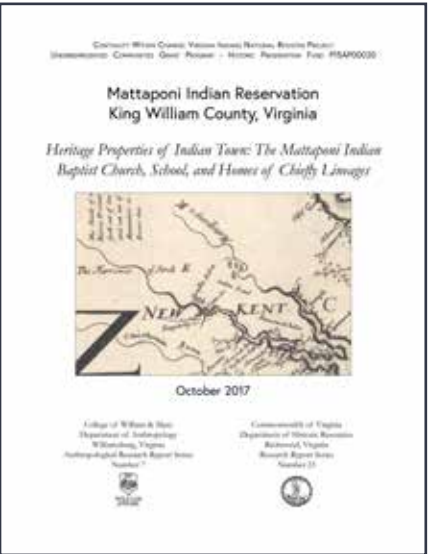
The first of just a few "development projects" in the Commonwealth that were eligible for funding under the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief for Historic Properties Grant Program, the New Point Comfort Lighthouse Access Pier reconstruction at the c. 1800 New Point Comfort Lighthouse (photo below, Willie Brown, Virginia



Tourism Corporation) was also the first project in the grant program to be successfully completed. The pier was essential to provide access to the landmark, which will now undergo an extensive restoration.

The Hurricane Sandy Grant Program also provided the opportunity to reexamine archaeological sites along the Atlantic and Chesapeake coastlines of both Accomack and Northampton counties on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The primary goal of the archaeological survey, complet-

ed in 2016, was to assess the condition of all archaeological sites, especially previously recorded ones, adjacent to the shorelines in these two counties.



The results of this research provide a somber note about the dilemma of archaeological sites located along active coastlines. Of the 212 sites reexamined, 34 previously recorded were completely lost to erosion over the past 15 years. Additionally, erosion revealed 41 unrecorded archaeological sites that were documented as a result of the 2015-16 survey.

2017

As part of a multi-year effort to document the remaining post-Contact period historic resources of the Nottoway, Sapony, and Mattaponi Indian tribes, DHR partnered with the College of William and Mary and the American Indian Resource Center (AIRC) to conduct extensive oral history, archaeological and architectural survey projects on their tribal lands in Southampton, Halifax, and King William counties. Funded by a grant awarded to DHR from the NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant Program, the project resulted in tribal members and graduate students from W&M completing extensive original research and unique documentation that will inform fu-

ture work by DHR and the tribes to nominate cultural resources to the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. The project also resulted in three ground-breaking publications on each tribe as part of the College of William & Mary's Anthropological Research Report Series.

The Historical Highway Marker Rehabilitation Program, DHR's partner in managing the 94-year-old Historical Highway Markers program, provided funding that permitted DHR staff to conduct the research and carry out the established regulatory process necessary to update (with more educational information) and re-dedicate more than 121 existing highway markers erected during the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. The rehabilitated markers remain in the total inventory of the highly visible and publicly popular program, which now totals more than 2,600 signs.

2018

The beautifully restored Cavalier Hotel (photo below) in Virginia Beach was dedicated and re-opened for business in March 2018. A historic rehabilitation tax credit project, the grand hotel, built in 1928 and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, represented an investment of more than \$200 million and, according to Virginia Beach officials at the time, the renovated 85-room Cavalier is expected to generate \$41 million to \$52 million in new tax revenue in the first 20 years. The hotel also employs 200 people year-round and 330 during its busiest seasons. In her remarks at the re-dedication ceremony, DHR Director Julie V. Langan praised the city and Cavalier Associates for stepping up to preserve The Cavalier and making it an important project for the state and a boost to heritage tourism. The project is a "poster child" for the historic tax credit program.



Virginia completed a multi-year project that succeeded in making the Commonwealth’s entire inventory of registered properties publicly accessible in digital format. Entitled The Virginia Landmarks Register Online, the project delivers descriptions, photographs, and all nomination documentation materials in a searchable format to users via the DHR website. VLR-Online enhances and visually mimics as an online resource a 601-page hard-bound Fourth Edition of the Virginia Landmarks Register, published by the University Press of Virginia in 1999 (with significant subvention from DHR). The ever-growing list of properties on the VLR and National Register of Historic Places makes it financially unfeasible for DHR to bring to publication another hardbound VLR book. The new digital “edition” is now updated regularly. In 2021, DHR staff began systematically replacing old black-and-white photos of the register listings with updated color photos for each landmark.

2019

Utilizing funding from the NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant Program, the Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia successfully partnered with graduate students in anthropology and archaeology from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and with staff at DHR to conduct an extensive architectural analysis of the Chief Otho Nelson House. The late-19th-century building, which is severely deteriorated, faces a more promising future as a result of the project. The culturally significant resource has special meaning to the Rappahannock, and is expected to undergo stabilization as an outcome of the initial analysis, which might lead to full rehabilitation over time. It also was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places.

Blackwell, a historic African American neighborhood in Richmond, was listed as a historic district in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places after a lengthy public participation phase, which resolved long-standing misunderstandings about the value of register listing and historic rehabilitation

tax credits for underrepresented communities. The effort was, perhaps, most successful in the effect it had on bringing disparate community entities to the table to plan for Blackwell’s future. A ceremony to erect a Virginia Historical Highway Marker for former resident and Civil Rights heroine Dorothy Height (photo page 12) was a highlight of the community’s engagement with DHR, and was celebrated by more than 200 people. Another tangential result was the receipt of funding from the Virginia General Assembly to fully fund a permanent new staff position focused specifically on outreach to African American and Virginia Indian communities throughout the commowealth with the objective of listing more resources significant to them on the National Register and the Virgina Landmarks Register.



ABOVE: Rappahannock Chief Otho S. and Susie P. Nelson House was documented with support from the Underrepresented Communities Grant Program.

2020

In partnership with Preservation Virginia, Inc., DHR completed a project utilizing grant funding from the NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant Program to fully survey the remaining Rosenwald Schools throughout the Commonwealth. This multiyear effort confirmed the locations and conditions of each school. Both organizations worked continuously with alumni groups for the Rosenwalds (as well as other historic African American schools) to advance strategies for securing futures for thee significant rural resources. Preservation Virginia’s annual African American Preservation Workshop was held in March in Alexandria, and will be remembered as the last in-person preservation event to take place in the Commonwealth before the pandemic lockdown.



DHR concluded a Memorandum of Agreement with the Navy that has as one of its mitigation measures a commitment for rehabilitation according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards a former train station located at Fort Story in the City of Virginia Beach. The former train station is the primary extant resource associated with a late-19th-century/early-20th-century vacation community historically associated with Fort Story. When the rehabilitation work was completed, the former train station was adaptively reused as Fort Story’s post office.

The city of Norfolk’s Norfolk & Western Railroad Historic District (listed in the registers in 2015) was transformed from a once neglected industrial district into a vibrant residential community using state and federal rehabilitation tax credits and other investment incentives. A Richmond-based developer bought several former factories, a school, and even a salvage yard and converted them into bright apartments with pools and gyms. The company has also ensured that the new residents have places to visit on foot such as breweries, bars, and restaurants.

ABOVE: Completed in 1920, Saint Paul's School is one of the 13 schools constructed with Rosenwald Fund support in Brunswick County.



FOUR THE PLAN

AGENCY MISSION:

The Department of Historic Resources fosters, encourages, and supports the stewardship and use of Virginia's significant architectural, archaeological, and historic resources as valuable assets for the economic, educational, and cultural benefit of citizens and communities.

AGENCY VISION:

Virginia is fortunate to have a wealth of historic places that enrich our quality of life and contribute to our economic vitality. Authentic historic places connect us with the people and events that shaped who we are today. The use of historic places as assets for a vital future builds on the connectivity of those working to preserve and interpret them, or to ensure their use as homes for families and businesses well into the future.

We envision Virginia as a place where public and private partners join hands as stewards of historic lands and landmarks, where people repurpose buildings as routinely as they recycle cans and glass, and where DHR is recognized for its role in fulfilling the charge of Article XI of the Virginia Constitution to conserve, develop, and use historic sites and buildings for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

We also foresee a future where Virginia's historic places are fully valued and used as essential assets for education, tourism, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality, as well as underlying cultural, social, and civic benefits; where pride of place lifts people's spirits and improves their well-being in communities large and small throughout the Commonwealth; and where the preservation of those places is so broadly accepted that it is integrated into daily life and decision-making at all levels.

AGENCY GOALS:

DHR's programs support public and private efforts to make the most of irreplaceable historic resources that can and should benefit Virginia communities for generations to come. The Department has been guided during the past six years by issues, challenges, and goals adopted as part of Today's Treasure – Tomorrow's Trust: Virginia's Statewide Comprehensive Preservation Plan 2016-2021. While the goals and objectives from this plan and its predecessors shape overall agency actions, the Department refines its efforts in two related, but shorter planning processes.

Every two years, DHR updates its Strategic Plan. Using the Comprehensive Plan's goals and objectives, the Strategic Plan establishes biennial priorities as well as measures by which success can be assessed. The Strategic Plan is made public on the Commonwealth of Virginia website and is linked to the State's biennial budgeting process. In addition, each year DHR sets annual priorities based on perceived needs and partnership opportunities as well as current fiscal and staffing constraints, outlining more specific tactics by means of which it will address goals and objectives cited in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Agency Strategic Plan.

The Department's revised Work Plan continues to reflect biennial revisions and updates made to our Strategic Plan and continues to improve the quality of, and access to information about historic resources and ways to preserve and use them effectively and demonstrate an increased commitment to serving all of Virginia's varied geographic areas and diverse communities.

LEFT: DHR sponsored field schools and investigations at the prehistoric and early 17th-century colonial site at Eyreville, Northampton County. Photo: Michael Clem, (DHR)



VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN: 2022–2027

GOAL 1: IDENTIFY, EVALUATE, AND RECOGNIZE THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VIRGINIA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND CULTURAL HISTORIC RESOURCES.

Objective 1.A: Assess statewide architectural and archaeological coverage to identify priorities, gaps, and areas of urgency.

Strategy 1.A.1: Create and update geospatial analyses for both architectural and archaeological survey coverage, including the development of predictive models and risk models considering factors like climate change impacts and development.

Strategy 1.A.2: Develop internal GIS-based probability models for archaeological site sensitivity to be evaluated against reported survey data, reconnaissance, and public engagement.

Strategy 1.A.3: Engage stakeholders outside of DHR to identify priority areas and topics for architectural and archaeological survey.

Strategy 1.A.4: Revise DHR's Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resource Survey in Virginia, consulting with stakeholders on needs and issues, and update to reflect best practices.

Objective 1.B: Maintain, innovate, and expand VCRIS, DHR's statewide survey database.

Strategy 1.B.1: Develop system enhancements by incorporating user feedback, programmatic needs, and best practices for cultural resource information infrastructure.

Strategy 1.B.2: Engage with the public at the community level to identify and record resources.

Objective 1.C: Improve and strengthen the accuracy, accessibility, integrity, and use of DHR's electronic and archival information on historic resources and their associated artifact and documentary collections.

Strategy 1.C.1: Digitize appropriate hardcopy records from multiple program areas and integrate information about historic resources across the agency.

Strategy 1.C.2: Enrich DHR's electronic records with legacy data to increase comprehensiveness and enable effective decision-making.

Strategy 1.C.3: Develop and apply policies for accessioning, maintaining, and preserving digital cultural heritage data in alignment with best practices.

Objective 1.D: Promote the stewardship of collections and other archaeological resources around the Commonwealth.

Strategy 1.D.1: Partner with stakeholders outside of DHR to develop and deliver information and training on best practices and practical solutions for stewardship of collections.

Strategy 1.D.2: Provide training in curatorial best practices for stewards of collections and other resources.

Strategy 1.D.3: Recognize effective stewardship by highlighting specific resources and their stewardship through social media platforms.

Strategy 1.D.4: Launch an underwater archaeological program to locate, study, and protect Virginia's vast underwater historic archaeological resources.

Objective 1.E: Evaluate and promote the listing of significant historic properties in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Strategy 1.E.1: Manage and improve the process of listing properties in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places through collaboration with property owners, localities, and others.

Strategy 1.E.2: Develop historic contexts, guidance documents, and multiple property nominations to help guide preservation planning, evaluation, and stimulate registration of high priority and underrepresented properties.

Strategy 1.E.3: Identify and register significant publicly-owned properties.

Strategy 1.E.4: Increase the number of listed properties significant to minority, underrepresented, tribal, and diverse communities in Virginia.

Strategy 1.E.5: Continue to enhance and "brand" DHR's "VLR (Virginia Landmarks Register) Online" web-based feature by showcasing listed sites on DHR social media channels.

Strategy 1.E.6: Create instructional/educational videos (of 5-to-10 minutes) for the public that explain key concepts (e.g. Preliminary Information Forms, Historic Resources Survey) and/or processes involved in listing properties on the registers.

Strategy 1.E.7: Distribute and build the audience for a monthly Registers Program Updates newsletter to showcase listed properties and inform the public about the listing process and various Registers-related issues.

Strategy 1.E.8: Develop internship projects to nominate new properties and revise nominations of currently listed properties.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE INCENTIVES, GUIDANCE, AND TOOLS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT VIRGINIA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND CULTURAL HISTORIC RESOURCES.

Objective 2.A: Promote and strengthen the role of state and federal rehabilitation tax credits in revitalizing historic residential, commercial, and industrial historic resources and neighborhoods.

Strategy 2.A.1: Continue to profile exemplary tax credit projects on DHR's website and in its quarterly newsletters.

Strategy 2.A.2: Continue to review and update tax incentives program materials to improve operations and application procedures.

Strategy 2.A.3: Continue to make presentations on the tax credit program to targeted audiences at workshops, webinars, etc.

Objective 2.B: Provide technical assistance to owners of historic properties to ensure their proper stewardship through perpetual preservation easements.

Strategy 2.B.1: Update and revise DHR's online (PDF) publication, *A Handbook and Resource Guide for Owners of Virginia's Historic Houses*.

Strategy 2.B.2: Ensure continued easement protection of battlefields acquired by property owners awarded funding through the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund.

Objective 2.C: Advise and assist state and federal agencies to ensure the protection of Virginia's significant historic and cultural resources.

Strategy 2.C.1: Provide timely response to federal and state agencies and their agents to review requests made under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and state preservation law.

Strategy 2.C.2: Pursue the development of programmatic agreements and other program alternatives to streamline the Section 106 review process and increase efficiency.

Strategy 2.C.3: Upon activation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan and the Virginia Emergency Support Team, provide technical assistance to federal, state, tribal, and local authorities to assess, stabilize, and restore structures of historic significance and mitigate damage to cultural resources.

Strategy 2.C.4: Encourage the development and implementation of management strategies through participation in the state review process and the biennial State Stewardship Report.

Objective 2.D: Strengthen and expand local government preservation programs through the Certified Local Government (CLG) and Cost Share programs.

Strategy 2.D.1: Promote certification and enable participation in the CLG program through funding preservation planning, development, survey, and register projects important to local governments.

Strategy 2.D.2: Continue to hold training workshops for CLGs and other local governments with local historic preservation commissions.

Strategy 2.D.3: Promote and manage the state-funded Cost Share program to enable more local governments to benefit from survey and planning project.

GOAL 3: MANAGE FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL ASSETS TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN VIRGINIA

Objective 3.A: Identify and manage effectively, responsibly, and transparently state and federal funds and grant programs to carry out DHR's mission, programs, and services.

Strategy 3.A.1: Fund survey, register, and development and planning projects through the Cost-Share, Certified Local Government, and other grant programs.

Strategy 3.A.2: Leverage the state-funded Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund to allow organizations to purchase easements or battlefield lands associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War.

Strategy 3.A.3: Promote and provide state funding for the maintenance and preservation of Revolutionary War and African American cemeteries and graves.

Strategy 3.A.4: Administer the Hurricanes Florence and Michael Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund by managing sub-awards based on federal program guidelines.

Strategy 3.A.5: Promote and assist eligible applicants seeking federal funding from the National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities, African American Civil Rights, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities grant programs.

Strategy 3.A.6: Award and administer grants from DHR's Threatened Sites program.

Strategy 3.A.7: Provide technical assistance to preservation projects funded by Virginia General Assembly grants awarded to non-profit organizations.

Objective 3.B: Lead, by example, in the maintenance and preservation of historic properties owned or occupied by DHR and assure a safe, healthy, and affirmative workplace.

Strategy 3.B.1: Develop and implement appropriate short- and long-term management strategies for DHR's headquarters and the regional office facilities.

Strategy 3.B.2: Continue to update and improve the DHR's plan for disaster response mitigation.

Strategy 3.B.3: Create and sustain an agency infrastructure that effectively supports progress and accountability in achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.

Strategy 3.B.4: Manage Clermont, a DHR-owned farm in Clarke County, responsibly and resourcefully, in collaboration with the Clermont Foundation.



Objective 3.C: Promote the responsible conservation, protection, and stewardship of DHR's expansive and significant archaeological collections.

Strategy 3.C.1: Partner with stakeholders to encourage use of these collections for research, educational, and exhibit purposes.

Strategy 3.C.2: Engage members of Virginia's state and federally recognized tribes to partner with DHR staff on the identification and traditional uses of artifacts and their potential use by tribal members for cultural purposes.

Strategy 3.C.3: Consult with tribal partners to develop a process for including traditional knowledge in collections records and catalogs.

Strategy 3.C.4: Consult with tribal partners and other descendant and community representatives to develop processes for providing appropriate handling (including potential repatriation), curation, and access to sensitive materials and data in consultation with concerned parties.

GOAL 4: EDUCATE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF VIRGINIA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND CULTURAL HISTORIC RESOURCES.

Objective 4.A: Reach out to public and private stakeholders to promote historic preservation values, benefits, services, programs, and tools.

Strategy 4.A.1: Provide information and technical assistance in the preservation of historic resources to all public and private stakeholders.

Strategy 4.A.2: Partner with Preservation Virginia to launch the Virginia Preservation Academy, a series of virtual, interactive, educational workshops that will focus on the fundamentals of historic preservation.

Strategy 4.A.3: Refine methods to utilize and expand the use of technology and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to broaden the audience and reach more diverse communities concerning historic preservation in Virginia.

Strategy 4.A.4: Maintain an exemplary DHR website, one that also features blogs by DHR staff to highlight DHR collections, DHR tax credit projects, archaeology, and other programs.

Strategy 4.A.5: Create and distribute an informative DHR Quarterly Newsletter that informs readers of new listings on the Virginia Landmarks Register, newly approved historic markers, profiles select recent easement donations, along with other news.

Strategy 4.A.6: Create and distribute a periodic newsletter entitled Grave Matters, focusing on cemetery preservation education.

Strategy 4.A.7: Provide technical advice and information on historic cemetery preservation to organizations, localities, and private owners of cemeteries.

Strategy 4.A.8: Integrate environmental sustainability, climate change, affordable housing, and historic preservation practices in preservation plans at all levels of government to ensure historic resources are part of a viable future.

Strategy 4.A.9: Work collaboratively with Federal partners to identify and meaningfully engage stakeholders as part of compliance with preservation laws.

Strategy 4.A.10: Leverage information in DHR's Archives and Inventory to produce educational and outreach content to connect with communities and researchers.

Strategy 4.A.11: Promote knowledge of archaeological resources and programs through Virginia Archaeology Month tools and products and programs offered both in-house and to organizations and groups outside of DHR.

Objective 4.B: Support national, state, and local preservation organizations to expand networks and collaborations to promote historic preservation.

Strategy 4.B.1: Support Preservation Virginia, the statewide preservation organization, and local and regional preservation organizations and historical societies in their missions, workshops, webinars, and other programs.

Strategy 4.B.2: Strengthen partnership with Virginia Tourism Corporation to promote heritage tourism through the continued support of regional heritage areas and heritage trails throughout the Commonwealth.

Strategy 4.B.3: Continue to partner with the National Park Service in providing technical assistance and in the promotion of Virginia's three National Heritage Areas (Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area; Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District; and the Northern Neck National Heritage Area) and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Strategy 4.B.4: Strengthen partnerships with National Parks, Monuments, and other federally-designated historic sites, especially those that focus on African American history, such as Booker T. Washington National Monument, Fort Monroe National Monument, and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site.

Strategy 4.B.5: Provide technical assistance in the preservation and interpretation of Native American sites at Machicomoco and York River state parks.



Objective 4.C: Provide technical assistance to state agencies that own or manage historic properties and/or promote preservation and tourism in Virginia.

Strategy 4.C.1: Provide education and technical assistance regarding public use of historic structures and cultural landscapes to state land management agencies.

Strategy 4.C.2: Support preservation planning by collaborating with other state agencies as well as state colleges and universities to implement preservation planning policies, procedures, and programs.

Strategy 4.C.3: Collaborate and expand partnerships with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Main Street Program and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Virginia Land Conservation Fund, while continuing to provide technical assistance to communities and land conservation organizations awarded grants through these programs.

Strategy 4.C.4: Use the biennial Report on the Stewardship and Status of Virginia's State-Owned Historic Property to highlight preservation successes and challenges and work collaboratively with noted agencies to address preservation concerns.

Objective 4.D: Integrate Virginia's Highway Marker program with all DHR's programs and where possible relevant programs at other state agencies.

Strategy 4.D.1: Continue to reach out to tribal, diverse, and underrepresented communities to enable them to tell their cultural histories through the Virginia Historical Highway Marker Program.

Strategy 4.D.2: Spread the word through press releases and media coverage of all new highway markers to be erected and encourage sponsors to host public events to dedicate them.

Strategy 4.D.3: Enhance the content of the Virginia Tourism Corporation's African American Heritage Trail.

Objective 4.E: Provide workshops, webinars, and other educational events promoting preservation issues, programs, and best practices in historic preservation.

Strategy 4.E.1: Hold annual workshops for training members of local government architectural review boards and preservation commissions through the CLG program.

Strategy 4.E.2: Hold an annual workshop on the technical aspects of preserving historic cemeteries.

Strategy 4.E.3: Provide training and instruction to users of VCRIS and Archives for conducting effective research at DHR and submitting quality information to the agency.

GOAL 5: ACHIEVE FULL INCLUSION IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN VIRGINIA BY EMBEDDING EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE INTO OUR AGENCY CULTURE AND PROGRAMS AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS AND OUTCOMES.

Objective 5.A: Identify and breakdown structural barriers in our preservation practices that impede diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I).

Strategy 5.A.1: Partner with the Governor's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to involve Virginia Indians, African Americans, and other diverse community members in educating the agency about their concerns and suggestions.

Strategy 5.A.2: Identify underserved and underrepresented areas of the state and create and implement strategies based on information gained in 5.A.1 (above) to better serve constituents' preservation needs in these areas.

Strategy 5.A.3: Engage with the NCSHPO to identify institutional barriers that exist, e.g. the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards.

Strategy 5.A.4: Collaborate with other agencies and SHPOs to share best practices and opportunities for diverse engagement both internally and externally.

Strategy 5.A.5: Ensure the themes of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are included in agency-sponsored staff trainings and professional development.

Objective 5.B: Broaden the historic preservation audience to include more of Virginia's diverse and minority communities, younger constituents, and underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Strategy 5.B.1: Reach out to Native American, African American, and other diverse communities to identify and register historic resources important to them.

Strategy 5.B.2: Identify and implement preservation partnership opportunities with Virginia's historically Black colleges and universities.

Strategy 5.B.3: Promote and strengthen student internship and volunteer opportunities at DHR.

Strategy 5.B.4: Develop outreach programs to students in public and private schools and institutions of higher learning to enlighten and involve them in historic preservation at an early age.

Strategy 5.B.5: Partner with the National Park Service and National Trust for Historic Preservation in a survey of African American Watermen Communities in the Virginia Chesapeake Bay region.

Strategy 5.B.6: Partner with Preservation Virginia and other organizations in identifying, registering, and preserving Rosenwald schools, African American urban and rural communities, and African American churches and cemeteries in Virginia.

Strategy 5.B.7: Revise and create program materials that speak to a diverse community of constituents.



FIVE

ASSESSMENT OF VIRGINIA'S HISTORIC RESOURCES

SINCE PASSAGE of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, Virginia has consistently ranked among the top states in accumulating information on its cultural resources. The Commonwealth—an area of slightly more than 42,500 square miles—has now recorded 264,936 archaeological and historic properties as of October 1, 2021 through survey, studies, and cultural resource management reports. These numbers represent an eight percent increase in the number of sites and properties recorded since the last planning cycle preservation plan was completed in 2016.

In 2013, DHR in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), launched the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS), an advanced technology designed to provide access to information in DHR's Archives to clients who need it most—researchers, historians, consultants, and federal and state agencies and their contractors managing lands in Virginia or responsible for the maintenance and development of infrastructure necessary to sustain a vital economy. Compared to earlier databases, VCRIS improved data delivery by streamlining the entry of data about cultural resources in Virginia, facilitated accurate and rapid data requests, and provided users direct access to the data. VCRIS also displays valuable mapping and geographic information about the significance of Virginia's historic resources. Important to the viability of the data collected, VCRIS also allows clients and DHR staff to add information to existing records or create new records, thus extending the capabilities of DHR's professional staff and other users. As of 2021, VCRIS now includes over 600,000 images and files associated with sites and properties, as well as a complete collection of nearly 12,000 digitized cultural resource management reports held in DHR's Archives.

While the distribution of archaeological resources recorded within the Commonwealth reflects, in part, Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act for Phase I survey, other factors affect the overall recordation of sites. Such factors as active university archaeological programs, proactive chapters of the Archeological Society of Virginia, and avocational archaeologists have all led to numerous sites being recorded and investigated outside of any legal mandates tied to Section 106. These belowground resources range from prehistoric Native American village sites such as Werowocomoco in Gloucester County to colonial-era plantation sites such as Eyreville in Northampton County and from Civil War forts and battlefields to mid-20th-century industrial sites. DHR archaeology staff lead survey and excavations at selected sites that are threatened with loss from a variety of human-made and natural forces. The Threatened Sites program has funded archaeological assessments, excavations, recovery and stabilization of threatened or orphaned collections, project-specific analyses, and human remains consultation, analysis, and reinterment. These projects are often conducted with university or non-profit partners.

Working with local and state partners, DHR continues to add to its online inventory of historic architecture and structures throughout the state. Historic preservation organizations, local governments with strong preservation planning programs, consultants conducting surveys for clients, and students undertaking

LEFT: Interior, the boathouse at Chelsea, King William County. Photo: Elizabeth Lipford (DHR)

survey projects have generated thousands of records of historic buildings and structures in Virginia ranging from 17th-century dwellings such as Bacon’s Castle in Surry County to 18th-century colonial courthouses to late-19th-century steel truss bridges to early-20th-century African American communities to mid-20th-century modern developments such as Lake Anne Village in Fairfax County.

VCRIS is also used to analyze areas of deficiency. Analysis of DHR records indicates much of what is known about Virginia’s cultural resources is now significantly outdated. Many survey records are more than 25 years old and need updating. Archaeological, architectural, and cultural resources that are considered of national significance were the first to be surveyed and nominated to the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. These early survey records often are brief and contain incomplete or incorrect information. Outdated information impedes analysis of preservation planning decisions at the local and state levels. By steadily improving the technical capabilities of VCRIS to track resources and query the information statewide, DHR is able to refresh, revisit, and add to the ever-increasing number of survey records from which informed planning decisions can be made to preserve them.

The concentration of known resources also varies by region in Virginia. Metropolitan areas in the state such as the suburbs of Northern Virginia, the City of Richmond and surrounding counties, and the cities of Hampton Roads have had some of the most concentrated architectural surveys, often financed by enlightened local governments and by transportation projects. Less populated and rural areas across the state tend to have fewer architectural survey projects but perhaps more archaeological surveys of sites. Rural area also experience less geographic survey coverage due to factors such as different priorities for some local governments, fewer and smaller transportation projects requiring survey, a lack of financial and other resources, or a lack of interest in historic preservation in some places. The southern Piedmont region, the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula in eastern Virginia, Southwestern Virginia, and a few counties in the central and Northern Piedmont regions have the smallest number of resources surveyed by county or region.

Most cities throughout the Commonwealth tend to have adequate or extensive survey coverage, although often outdated. Those localities with several historic districts listed on the Virginia and National Registers tend to have extensive survey coverage. Many Certified Local Governments have taken the opportunity to use CLG funding to increase and update their survey data, while other local governments have used state-supported Cost Share funding to do the same. Each year about 20 local governments compete successfully in obtaining funding from the CLG and Cost Share programs to initiate and complete many survey and preservation planning projects.

In DHR’s Archives, resources associated with Native Americans are mostly represented by extensive prehistoric and historic archaeological artifacts in DHR’s collections. In 2020, a Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) for historic resources associated with the Nottoway Tribe and one individual nomination (supported by the MPD) was listed on the NRHP. The MPD form will facilitate register listing in the future of more eligible individual resources associated with that tribe. DHR is devoted to increasing representation of tribal resources in the survey and NRHP programs, and we will continue to reach out to other tribes, some only recently recognized by the federal government, to encourage their participation in these programs.

While African American historic resources were not well represented in the survey records and National Register nominations in the early years of DHR’s survey and register programs, about 10 percent of DHR’s total register listings are African American resources. Since 2003, DHR has conducted programmatic efforts to increase public awareness of the full diversity of Virginia’s rich historic legacy by recognizing important people, places, and events in the history of Virginia Indians, African Americans, women, and other underrepresented topics

and ethnic heritage themes. The efforts have concentrated on new National Register listings, especially African American churches and rural historic districts, and additions to Virginia’s Historical Highway Marker program. Since 2003, public and private partners have worked with DHR to list over 200 individual properties and historic districts associated with diversity themes on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register. Archaeological collections have been examined, and those sites and contexts associated with African Americans have been prioritized for conservation and curation, making them more accessible to researchers and students.

An examination of agency data structures has led to important VCRIS database improvements. In September 2021, DHR added “Cultural Affiliation” as a data entry field for architecture properties to match the existing archaeology structure, as well as “Cultural Affiliation Details” to both architecture and archaeology in order to capture more fine-grained information about cultural groups (individual tribes, nationalities, etc.). Ongoing data enrichment projects to expand data collected in these new fields includes systematically classifying listed sites and properties, and enriching VCRIS data from individual National Register Evaluation Team ratings sheets to capture cultural affiliation.

Hispanic and Asian immigration to Virginia is a relatively recent phenomenon, so this demographic must be represented in new survey and register initiatives in the near future as resources come of age. Other ethnic communities, such as several 18th-century Germanic settlements in the Shenandoah Valley, 19th-century Norwegian, Czech, and Polish settlements in Southside, and coal mining towns in southwestern Virginia, some noted for their multi-ethnic work force, are among a number of communities that deserve more attention in the survey, register, and highway marker programs to round out the full story of Virginia history. More has also been done to promote Women’s history through more recent register and highway marker additions, and concentrated efforts to identify and recognize the historical resources associated with the LGBTQ community in the Commonwealth also have been recently launched.

ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Virginia has a great array of important and irreplaceable historic resources ranging over the centuries from Native American sites to buildings associated with the Space Age. While many are more numerous, visible, and prevalent on the landscape, others are scarce or little known and may have been overlooked as historic resources and landmarks in the past. The present-day emphasis on broadening our knowledge and understanding of all historic resources, especially responding to diverse communities to include resources important to them, is long overdue. Going forward, our collections, knowledge, and appreciation of historic resources must reflect the more inclusive and complete story of Virginia history.

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“Absolutely, whether a building is repurposed, preserved to become a tourist attraction, or used to spotlight the contributions of a particular ethnic group the community at large is enhanced.”



SIX

CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

SHPO FUNDING

The Department of Historic Resources carries out a variety of programs that encourages the preservation of Virginia’s historic resources. Preservation programs include, but are not limited to, the Virginia Landmarks Register, review of state and federal projects, state and federal rehabilitation tax credits, preservation easements, historical highway markers, and archaeological programs. DHR also administers grants to non-state entities.

DHR’s funding comes from state general funds, annual federal funds from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) administered by the National Park Service, private gifts and donations, state tax credit project fees, our Archives research fees, and Archaeological Collections curatorial fees. Other sources include sales and royalties from publications, copy machine fees, interest, and federal grant cost recoveries.

DHR has received increased annual state and federal funding for the last few years, and this trend in increased figures will probably continue to rise or stabilize in the foreseeable future. Listed below are annual allocations to DHR from the Historic Preservation Fund for the last five years, showing an increase averaging nearly \$40,000 per year. An increase of \$60,848 for each of the years 2020 and 2021 is unprecedented.

2017	\$915,692
2018	\$935,975
2019	\$951,187
2020	\$1,012,035
2021	\$1,072,883

DHR has also managed federal funding for various special programs in Virginia such as the Hurricanes Florence and Michael Emergency Supplementary Historic Preservation Fund, and grant programs for Underrepresented Communities, African American Civil Rights, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (see Natural Disasters and Strong Partnerships: National below).

The Governor of Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly authorize matching grants to museums and historic sites through the annual General Appropriation Act for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic properties that are open to the public and provide a combination of educational, cultural, and tourism benefits to the surrounding community. Some grants are also available for educational programs that use these historic places to interpret Virginia history.

Appropriations are also available annually to support battlefield preservation through the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, which provides matching grants to nonprofit organizations for the purchase of either preservation easements or tracts of lands associated with Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields. Matching grants are awarded to specific projects through a competitive process. Requirements include, among other criteria and conditions, the donation of preservation easements to be held in perpetuity by the Commonwealth on the properties preserved using state grant funds. Since 2006, DHR has been responsible

LEFT: In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation to allow local governments to move, remove, or contextualize public war memorials. Photo: James Hare (DHR)

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY
VALUE?

“Historic preservation helps ground communities by cultivating a sense of place and belonging. Because it supports a social connection to generations past and present, historic preservation is a public good and should be held as a community value.”

for distributing more than \$19,300,000 to organizations that have preserved over 9,500 acres of battlefield lands in Virginia.

Annual state appropriations are also available for the maintenance of African American cemeteries and graves and the maintenance and restoration of the graves of Revolutionary War veterans and patriots. In the last few years, the African American Cemetery and Graves Fund has been especially popular with nonprofit organizations responsible for maintaining historic African American cemeteries established before 1900. Over 20 cemeteries have benefited from the \$140,200 provided by the grant program since its establishment by State Code in 2017. Each year the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) is awarded \$23,100 that is distributed to VASSAR chapters to maintain Revolutionary War veterans’ and patriots’ graves throughout Virginia.

The Virginia General Assembly often provides funding for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties that are owned by non-profit organizations dedicated to educational purposes. These are usually “bricks-and-mortar” projects, and many are awarded once, but some represent multi-year projects that are monitored and tracked by DHR, ensuring that the historic properties receive appropriate treatment consistent with accepted preservation standards.

MONUMENTS AND STATUES

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation to allow local governments to move, remove, or contextualize public war memorials. Prior to this legislation, Confederate memorials and statues in Virginia were protected from removal or relocation. At least 378 Confederate monuments existed on private and public lands in Virginia, according to a count made by DHR in 2018, representing at least 88 percent of the total 429 war memorials in the state. Nearly all cities and county seats in Virginia had, until recently, courthouse complexes containing a Confederate monument, usually consisting of a concrete shaft topped by the figure of a Confederate soldier. Other communities had parks and other public spaces featuring equestrian statues of Confederate military leaders. Most of these monuments and statues were erected during the Jim Crow Era in Virginia.

Since the summer of 2020, when there was national outcry to remove symbols of the Confederacy throughout the nation, some local governments in Virginia, such as the cities of Richmond, Alexandria, Roanoke, Charlottesville, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Portsmouth and the counties of Fairfax and Loudoun, have removed or relocated their Confederate monuments and statues. By September 2021, the Commonwealth of Virginia, after legal challenges, had also removed the state-owned Robert E. Lee statue (dedicated in 1890) on Monument Avenue in Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy.

While undoubtedly more Confederate statues and memorials will be removed and/or relocated in the next few years as social and cultural issues are continually debated, there is an alternative option allowed by current state law. Local governments can leave their monuments in place and contextualize them if they choose. Contextualization aims to explain the circumstances, influences, and conditions that resulted in a war memorial’s creation, according to draft regulations written by DHR and approved by the state’s Board of Historic Resources in September 2021. A contextualized war memorial will describe circumstances that existed when it was erected

and will explain the documented motivation for its creation. On a fast track to state approval, contextualization may prove to be a popular compromise to allow monuments and statues to remain in place, keeping their historic integrity and original setting and thereby protecting their listing in the National Register of Historic Places and providing context to help explain why, when, and how the monument was erected.

NATURAL DISASTERS

In 2020, the National Park Service awarded DHR \$4.7 million in funding to provide recovery assistance to historic resources damaged by hurricanes Florence and/or Michael that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The funding from the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) administered by the NPS enables DHR to contract projects and make sub-awards to historic resources in the 52 eligible counties and cities in Virginia that were identified in major disaster declarations by FEMA.

In the summer of 2021, DHR released the first batch of survey and planning projects funded through the ESHPPF disaster assistance program. The projects were selected on a competitive basis, and DHR will provide necessary administrative services to support them. This first round of ESHPPF grants funds projects in Mathews, Pittsylvania, and Halifax counties, the towns of Pulaski, Keysville, and Montross, the City of Richmond, and projects that span multiple localities. DHR anticipates that the projects will result in new and/or updated information for over 1,400 historic and cultural resources in the Commonwealth. These ESHPPF survey and planning projects will enable—

- A reconnaissance-level architectural survey of approximately 600 properties and preparation of a document to nominate the Gwynn’s Island Historic District in Mathews County to the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP);
- A selective reconnaissance-level architectural survey of approximately 250 properties within the city of Richmond as well as the preparation of a report outlining opportunities for further survey and preservation projects;
- A reconnaissance-level architectural survey of approximately 15 properties within a proposed historic district in the Town of Pulaski focusing on a historic African American neighborhood and preparation of a DHR Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the historic district (a PIF is the first step in securing a nomination to the VLR and NRHP);
- A reconnaissance-level architectural survey of approximately 100 properties and preparation of a document to nominate the Keysville Historic District in Charlotte County to the VLR and the NRHP;
- The planning and development of the first phase of a Virginia Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Training Program in partnership with the seven federally- and four state- recognized Tribes of Virginia;
- A nomination for the Montross Historic District in Westmoreland County to the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).



Volunteers are instrumental in helping DHR steward the vast collection of artifacts housed in its Richmond office.

Three of the projects involve archaeological surveys by water and by land along portions of rivers to record potential new archaeological sites and revisit previously recorded sites—

- an approximately 22-mile stretch of the Dan River in Pittsylvania County will be surveyed;
- an approximately 35-mile stretch of the Dan River in Halifax County will be surveyed; and
- an approximately 20-mile stretch of the Banister River in Pittsylvania County will be surveyed.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

LOCAL

Virginia’s amazing success stories in preservation could never have been achieved by one entity. Rather, they have been the result of partnerships among many stakeholders—from local citizen groups to state- and nation-wide agencies and organizations—and a balance between the public and private sectors to obtain laudable goals in historic preservation across the state. The preservation and active use of historic places depends primarily on the property owner (public and private) and on the commitment of each community to acknowledge and promote the importance of historic preservation and to enact protections for local historic resources. Not only do local governments own and operate buildings and sites such as courthouses, schools, county and city offices, and parks that may be historic resources, they also have the authority to shape private property actions through property tax assessments and abatements, building permits, comprehensive planning and zoning, local historic district ordinances, the application of the statewide building code (which includes provisions for historic buildings), and the use of state and federal grants and incentives that can affect historic places in both positive and negative ways.

While many local governments in Virginia generally support historic preservation, some have developed novel programs and incentives to promote their local preservation goals. One Virginia local government has adopted a program whereby county-owned historic resources are maintained and protected by tenants interested in renting these local landmarks. Fairfax County’s Resident Curator Program (RCP) allows the county to address underutilized publicly owned historic properties by entering into long-term leases with qualified tenants who agree to rehabilitate the property in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and provide ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the property for the duration of the contract. The RCP arose to address the large number of historically significant structures deteriorating on public land. The public/private partnerships created through RCPs have provided a successful stewardship solution for these important cultural resources.

Most long-term strategies are prompted by the committed actions and advocacy of local citizens, property owners, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to historic preservation. Statewide and national organizations can contribute to these efforts, but it is the local players who ultimately provide the impetus, play the greater roles in achieving success, and benefit the most from the long-term results.



The City of Staunton has a long history of successful historic preservation through private and public partnerships.

One community that has a long history of successful historic preservation through private and public partnerships is the City of Staunton in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. Following projects that razed large areas of Staunton’s downtown in the 1960s, the community itself began to realize their local heritage was at stake, so they pulled together to stem the tide. Led by a handful of visionary business men and women, historic preservation professionals, and the strong advocacy of the Historic Staunton Foundation, the community began a long trend of façade improvements, identified and listed buildings and neighborhoods in the state and national registers, and promoted rehabilitation projects using state and federal tax credits. Staunton’s charming and vital downtown and several preserved residential neighborhoods are the result of this long-term partnership between public and private sectors that has generated an economic boon to this vibrant community.

Communities across the state have enjoyed similar fruits of private and public investment in historic preservation. Cities and towns like Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Danville, Charlottesville, Culpeper, Lexington, Roanoke, and Abingdon all have preservation ordinances, nearly all are Certified Local Governments, and all have revitalized historic downtowns that attract businesses and tourists alike. Fredericksburg, Winchester, and New Market have combined downtown charm with the preservation of nearby Civil War battlefields; while Abingdon, Roanoke, and Danville have capitalized on their 19th- and early-20th-century architecture; Culpeper has seen its downtown transformed using incentives and services provided by the Main Street program; and Danville, Norfolk, and Richmond have utilized tax credits to revitalize historic downtowns and neighboring warehouse districts for business and residential use as traditional tobacco, manufacturing, and railroad industries have declined or changed. Even small rural towns such as Colonial Beach (Westmoreland Co.), South Hill and Chase City (Mecklenburg Co.), Surry (Surry Co.), Courtland (Southampton Co.), Clifton Forge (Alleghany Co.), Warm Springs (Bath Co.), Stuart (Patrick Co.), and Big Stone Gap and Appalachia (Wise Co.), have benefited from recent register listings of historic districts.

Local historic preservation organizations are often key to the advocacy and promotion of historic preservation in communities. Many educate the public and elected officials about the importance of historic preservation, and often they generate local preservation initiatives and advocate best practices in preserving historic resources. Some, like Historic Alexandria Foundation, Historic Richmond Foundation, Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Historic Lexington Foundation, and Preservation of Historic Winchester, have long histories in leading the fight for historic preservation in their respective communities. Other organizations were founded more recently, often due to the loss of a beloved historic landmark or group of buildings and sites.

REGIONAL

Regional perspectives and strategies are also important, and Virginia has several regional—and even statewide and multi-state—strategies that demonstrate the value of a coordinated approach to achieve historic preservation successes. The following organizations are a sample of some of the most successful regional preservation

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“Yes, historic preservation is a community value. Value denotes the degree of importance assigned to some thing or action. If a community collectively does not see the importance, worth, or usefulness of preservation, behaviors and activities can cause repercussive, irrevocable damage to the resources within a community, and social wellbeing and social interests suffer.

organizations that continue to advocate for historic preservation on a regional and multi-regional level. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) was created by Congress in 1996 to preserve Civil War battlefield lands in the Shenandoah Valley. With funding from federal, state, and local sources, the SVBF has purchased dozens of tracts of battlefield land that are preserved in perpetuity by preservation easements, mostly held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2021, the SVBF has preserved over 6,600 acres of battlefield lands in the Valley. Similar organizations include the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, the Richmond Battlefields Association, and the Manassas Battlefield Trust.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) is a multi-state national heritage area, linking sites along a route from Gettysburg to Monticello. Recently JTHG has promoted the identification and recording of historic African American communities and the planting of trees within the wide corridor. The Crooked Road (Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail) started from a grassroots movement to highlight Virginia’s music traditions and bring tourism to Southwest Virginia.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Overmountain Victory Trail, and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail are all part of the National Historic Trail system that promotes preservation and tourism in multi-state regions.

The Fields of Gold Trail and the Apple Trail through the Shenandoah Valley are some of the newest examples of regional cooperation. Initiated by local interests and local government support, they are regional programs designed to collectively market and promote the Shenandoah Valley’s agri-tourism sites and activities.

Beginning in 1989, the Department of Historic Resources established its first regional preservation office in the city of Roanoke. Since then, additional regional offices have been created to more readily provide historic preservation services and programs directly to the people of Virginia’s diverse regions. At present, DHR supports three such regional offices located in the Town of Stephens City, which serves northern Virginia, the northern Piedmont, and the Shenandoah Valley; the City of Salem, which serves the southern Piedmont and southwestern Virginia; and the City of Richmond, which serves central and eastern Virginia. Each regional office has an archaeologist and an architectural historian and is often the first point of contact for clients interested in a number of preservation programs, issues, and concerns.

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“Yes—historic preservation is important to maintaining and stewarding a community’s identity, and telling the diverse stories of those who live there.”

STATE

A responsible steward of historic resources itself, DHR owns a historic property in Clarke County, which is located in the northern Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Known as Clermont, the 355-acre working farm was bequeathed to DHR in 2004 by Elizabeth Rust Williams whose family and enslaved peoples had occupied the farm for several generations. Operated as a historic site and model farm by the Clermont Foundation through a management agreement with DHR, Clermont focuses on using the active farm to inspire and educate targeted audiences. Among other activities, the Foundation hosts tours for school groups and special events such as art and preservation forums and archaeological field schools. Partnering with DHR, the Clermont Foundation has produced projects, including—

- *Historic structures report to fully understand and plan for the preservation of Clermont’s principal historic buildings;*
- *Clermont Archaeological Survey Plan;*
- *Archaeological Advisory Committee; and*
- *A slave Quarters Stabilization Project in partnership with the NPS and HistoriCorps that stabilized and rehabilitated the farm’s mid-19th-century log, double-pen enslaved families’ quarters located near the ca. 1755 (with additions) frame and weatherboard-clad main dwelling.*



DHR supports the programs and services of two statewide archaeological organizations in their endeavors to serve the archaeological community in Virginia.

In many ways, DHR’s strongest and most effective partner in the advocacy and promotion of historic preservation is Preservation Virginia (PVA), the privately-funded statewide preservation organization that is the oldest in the nation. With a mission “to inspire and engage the public in fostering, supporting, and sustaining Virginia’s historic places through leadership in advocacy, education, revitalization, and stewardship, Preservation Virginia envisions a future in which people seek a more complete understanding of the past, value the connections between people and place, and support the protection of places where history happened.” The stewards of six historic landmarks including Bacon’s Castle (the oldest known building in Virginia), Cape Henry Lighthouse, Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown, Historic Jamestowne, the John Marshall House, and Smith’s Fort, Preservation Virginia is a strong preservation advocate to the members of the Virginia General Assembly and to the state’s congressional representatives. According to PVA’s website, “Government policies and decisions have a major impact on Virginia’s historic places. Preservation Virginia works with its partners and network of preservationists to build public support for identifying priority preservation issues and developing action strategies to ensure that Virginia’s historic places remain strong and economically sustainable for present and future generations.”

One of the organization’s most effective tools is the annual Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places List. For more than 20 years, the list has championed Virginia’s most vulnerable and threatened historic places, and helped to find solutions for their preservation. Again, from PVA’s website, “The intent of the list is to bring attention to threatened historic places in the Commonwealth, and to encourage residents, localities, and organizations to support preservation and revitalization efforts.” Over the years, many of these landmarks have been saved due in large part to Preservation Virginia’s focus on their threatened loss and significance in Virginia history.

DHR often consults with and supports the programs and services of two statewide archaeological organizations in their endeavors to serve the archaeological community in Virginia. The Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) promotes the study of archaeology and anthropology, especially the prehistoric and historic periods in Virginia, and to work for the proper conservation and exploration of archaeological sites and materials. Through its 15 local and regional chapters, ASV promotes the spread of archaeological knowledge through publications, meetings, lectures, a technician certification program, and exhibits.

The Council of Virginia Archaeologists (CoVA) has a similar mission—to support the scientific and humanistic study of the human past, the preservation of archaeological sites and collections, and the dissemination of archaeological information for the benefit of the public. Made up primarily of professional archaeologists, the council fosters public awareness, knowledge, and support for the preservation of Virginia archaeology. As an

organization, CoVA is dedicated to working with public and private groups, property owners, and individuals in an effort to identify, protect, and interpret archaeological sites, artifacts, and elements of material culture that contribute to the understanding of the prehistory and history of the Commonwealth at the local, regional, state, and national levels.



Early 20th Century commercial building captured in reconnaissance level survey near Gwynn's Island, Mathews Co.

Several state agencies provide regional services related to historic preservation. Some are closely tied to regional and local communities by specific programs such as state parks, recreational planning, and state-owned colleges, universities, and community colleges. For instance, the Department of Conservation and Recreation often requests of DHR technical assistance in the maintenance and preservation of historic buildings and archaeological sites at state parks. The Department of Housing and Community Development administers the Virginia Main Street program, which has revitalized several downtowns with its architectural services and façade improvements, and promotion of historic rehabilitation state and federal tax credits, which DHR administers. Finally,

the Virginia Department of Transportation, through its many Section 106 Review and Compliance projects related to transportation, produces hundreds of architectural and archaeological records annually and often contributes state funding to enhance DHR's survey database.

NATIONAL

The National Park Service is DHR's major federal partner in historic preservation, and its administration of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is key to carrying out the federal mandates and programs created and outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In addition to Virginia's allocation from the HPF, DHR and other preservation partners receive funding from several recently established grant programs.

In 2021, the National Park Service awarded a total of \$15 million for projects nationwide through its African American Civil Rights Grant Program. In Virginia, the St. John School in Albemarle County received a grant to advance a third phase of its restoration project to facilitate the building's continued use as a community resource. In King George County, the Ralph Bunche High School received a grant to replace the building's roof as part of a larger preservation project. In Lynchburg, the Leonard N. Smith School of Religion (aka the Humbles House) at Virginia Union University was awarded funding to bolster the building's continued preservation and use.

The National Park Service also recently announced \$9.7 million in grants to assist 20 preservation projects in 10 states for historic structures on campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Projects funded by these grants will support the physical preservation of National Register-listed sites on HBCU campuses. Eligible costs include pre-preservation studies, architectural plans and specifications, historic structures reports, and the repair and rehabilitation of historic properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. In Virginia Hampton University received a grant for its Academy Building project, while Virginia State University received a grant for the rehabilitation of Vawter Hall, recently renamed Lula Johnson Hall.

Another Virginia HBCU benefiting from a grant from the NPS, Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Associated with the college, the James Solomon Russell-Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives will receive an Underrepresented Communities Grant for a project that will include comprehensive survey of the entire campus. The project also will include an updated nomination featuring detailed current descriptions of the historic resources on campus and a thorough statement of significance that documents the school's significance as a place of higher education for African American students from the Reconstruction Era to the early 20th century.

Another nationwide preservation partner is the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving America's historic places. The National Trust owns and manages five historic attractions in Virginia—more than in any other state: Belle Grove near Middletown; Oatlands near Leesburg; James Madison's Montpelier near Orange; and the Pope-Leighey House, and Woodlawn near Alexandria.

In November 2017, the National Trust launched its African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a campaign to preserve and protect places that have been overlooked in American history and represent centuries of African American activism, achievement, and resilience. Since launching the program, the Action Fund has raised \$45 million and supported more than 150 preservation projects nationally. Through this preservation effort—the largest ever undertaken in support of African American historic sites—the National Trust partners with and empowers Black and diverse communities to expand the American story.

On July 15, 2021, the Trust announced more than \$3 million in grants to 40 sites and organizations through the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Three grants went to Virginia entities—

- *The Fort Monroe Foundation for the creation of a memorial honoring the humanity of the first captive Africans who were enslaved and brought to Virginia in 1619. The grant will assist Fort Monroe and its partners to design an interpretive plan that contextualizes the people and events of 1619 from a global perspective.*
- *Hampton University for the conservation of artist Charles White's 1943 mural "The Contribution of the Negro to Democracy in America," located in Clarke Hall, a 1913 building on HU's campus.*
- *The Montpelier Descendants Committee, established by the Montpelier Foundation, will create a master project plan for their Arc of Enslaved Communities project, a descendant-led framework for the research, interpretation, physical discovery, and promotion of sites and projects centered on the contributions of the enslaved in Virginia during the era of the nation's founding.*

Beginning in 2021, DHR is partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay, and the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership to document African American watermen culture in Virginia's coastal and Tidewater area communities. Following the Civil War, self-employment in oystering, crabbing, fishing, and boat building provided independence and self-sufficiency for Black watermen. Labor employment opportunities also supported the processing, packing, and shipping of seafood to all parts of the eastern United States. Today, many of the places associated with this legacy are disappearing. To address this threat, the year-long project will result in the documentation of approximately 100 historic resources associated with Black watermen culture and a Multiple Property Documentation form which creates a context and a vehicle by which significant properties associated with the watermen culture are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

GOVERNMENT TRENDS

FEDERAL SUPPORT

The passage of the National Historic Preservation Act by Congress in 1966 made a monumental impact on the modern preservation movement in America. Not only did it launch the federal preservation program with the establishment of, among other things, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and the National Register of Historic Places, it also mandated a historic preservation office in each state. Over the past 55 years, it has—

- generated the identification of hundreds of thousands of historic properties,
- provided incentives and protections to properties for which millions of dollars have been invested for revitalization in downtowns and neighborhoods,
- provided both tools and standards for the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic resources,
- mandated the identification and study of significant archaeological resources impacted by modern development, and
- provided educational programs, literature, and online technical assistance that have been highly effective for making the case for the importance of historic preservation in our modern world.

The HPF has increased for the last five years, all of which has been critical to the success of most programs at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

National parks, monuments, battlefields, etc., in Virginia, have long provided public access, interpretation, recreational and tourism opportunities, and substantial revenues for the National Park Service and for communities near the parks. With more national parks and historic sites than any other southeastern state, Virginia is proud of its national parks, monuments, battlefields, and trails. These include—

Appalachian NST	Appomattox Court House NHP
Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial	Assateague Island National Seashore
Blue Ridge Parkway	Booker T. Washington National Monument
Cape Henry Memorial	Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP	Civil War Defenses of Washington
Colonial NHP	Cumberland Gap NHP
Fort Monroe National Monument	Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP
George Washington Birthplace National Monument	George Washington Memorial Parkway
Great Falls Park	Green Springs NHL District
Harpers Ferry NHP (a portion)	Maggie L. Walker NHS
Manassas National Battlefield Park	Overmountain Victory NHT
Petersburg National Battlefield	Potomac Heritage NST
Prince William Forest Park	Richmond National Battlefield Park
Shenandoah National Park	Star-Spangled Banner NHT
Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts	Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT

According to the National Park Service website (as of September 30, 2020), the following impressive figures have made a substantial impact on historic preservation and tourism in Virginia—

- More than \$1.5 billion in economic benefits from national park tourism in Virginia;
- More than \$10.9 million in historic preservation grants awarded to projects in Virginia; and
- 1,946 archaeological sites documented and recorded in national parks in Virginia

Additionally, the Commonwealth of Virginia can boast that it has—

- One World Heritage Site, consisting of the Jefferson-affiliated sites of Monticello and The Lawn at the University of Virginia
- Two national parks
- Three National Heritage Areas
- Five National Trails,
- 3,269 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, and
- 121 National Historic Landmarks

STATE SUPPORT

The Department of Historic Resources has fared well under the legislative and executive branches of state government in the past five years. The Virginia General Assembly has supported DHR and preservation in the Commonwealth through—

- Increased funding to DHR in SFY 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)
- Favorable legislation concerning state preservation easements
- Establishment of the African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund
- Stable funding for the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, and
- The addition of three new, full-time DHR salaried positions: a Community Outreach Officer, Cemetery Preservationist, and an Underwater Archaeologist.



In a gesture of support for historic preservation by Governor Ralph Northam and his Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler, the name of the secretariat under which DHR is found, was changed to the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. Mandated by executive order from Governor Northam in mid-2021, DHR also completed and adopted a plan to aspire and obtain diversity, equity, and inclusive (DE&I) excellence in the workplace and in all programs at DHR. A goal and several related objectives and strategies to strive for and achieve DE&I in the workplace and in all business relationships and transactions, figures prominently in DHR’s new Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan.

Funding for a Community Outreach Officer, a Cemetery Preservationist, and an Underwater Archaeologist (all full-time positions) was received in SFY 2022.

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“Historic preservation should be a community value, and teaching this value in elementary school is very relevant. Working with local organizations to use existing educational packages and accenting local history kits/units in schools with architectural and archeological modules could be a good start.”

State funding also was provided for extending the physical space at DHR headquarters in Richmond. Expanded square footage will allow for additional offices, archaeological collections, and archives. In an unprecedented move, the state legislature in 2021 provided funding to enhance salaries of DHR employees comparable to salaries for similar positions in the private sector. All of these accomplishments seems to bode well for continued support from the state for the Department of Historic Resources for years to come.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Recent studies reveal that the threat of climate change to coastal and tidal communities in Virginia is imminent, threatening erosion and inundation of hundreds of known archaeological sites and endangering equal numbers of coastal historic properties. A study by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science recommends not only that the Commonwealth prepare for a 1.5-foot sea level rise over the next 50 years, but also warns that sea levels may rise as much as three feet by 2065. Rising sea levels along with an increase in the frequency and severity of catastrophic weather events have already significantly affected historic properties in the Commonwealth, most critically along the Eastern Shore and Virginia Beach and area coastlines and the many miles of Chesapeake Bay shorelines and banks of rivers that feed into the Bay.

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“Yes. We are what we are today because of our past. We are only able to move forward if we accept our past no matter the good or bad and learn from it. That’s how we grow as a community.”

Hazard mitigation planning for natural disasters can help relieve the effects of climate change and promote resiliency for historic places. Federal funding for eligible property owners who experienced damage to their historic properties from hurricanes Sandy, Michael, and Florence in recent years also has been used by local governments to conduct archaeological and architectural surveys in potentially impacted areas of flooding and to create emergency and strategic planning documents that address appropriate measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of climate change and other natural disasters in the future.

POPULATION TRENDS

According to United States 2020 Census data, Virginia continued its trend of more growth in the last 10 years with a total population of 8,631,393 residents, a 7.9 percent increase from the last census in 2010 and exceeding the national average of 7.4 percent. Among Virginia’s 10 most populous localities, the fastest growth occurred in Prince William and Loudoun counties located in the outermost suburbs of the nation’s capital. Prince William County’s population increased 20 percent and surpassed Virginia Beach as the state’s most populous locality. Loudoun County’s population increased 35 percent, the highest in the state, and it surpassed Chesterfield County as the state’s fourth most populous jurisdiction. Fairfax County, by far Virginia’s most populous jurisdiction, grew at a 6-percent rate and now has a majority minority population; the 2020 Census shows a white population in Fairfax County of 49.5 percent.

In the Hampton Roads area, the City of Virginia Beach’s population increased only 5 percent, and the City of Norfolk’s population shrunk by 2 percent, which was offset by an above average growth in the cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk. In Southwest Virginia, all 15 counties west of Montgomery County lost population. In fact, all of Virginia’s counties west of the city of Suffolk and bordering the state’s boundary with North Carolina also lost population.

In central Virginia, the City of Richmond and the main suburban counties of Henrico and Chesterfield all grew faster than the statewide average. Racial data shows the state has become more racially diverse and less white, mirroring a national trend. A notable exception is Richmond, which was a majority Black city in 2010. The city’s white population has grown substantially in the past decade; the city is now 43 percent white and 40 percent Black.

These population figures will most likely impact historic preservation in the coming years with the loss of historic sites and buildings due to the construction of new roads and the widening of existing transportation corridors, increased urban and suburban populations needing more housing and ensuing commercial development, and the threat of more abandoned farmland as the farming population decreases and agribusiness practices make traditional agricultural buildings obsolete.

Historic areas can be targets of increased development pressures that can result in the loss of historic dwellings, archaeological sites, and communities. The transfer of large-scale suburban architectural traits to traditional-scale in-town neighborhoods have caused a loss of historic buildings as older dwellings are razed and replaced with more suburban models, and as a consequence, the loss of historic character and often unintended gentrification of these historic neighborhoods. Arlington and Fairfax counties in Northern Virginia have recently experienced this trend in many neighborhoods where new residents have razed a number of 1950s and 60s modest ranch-style houses, replacing them with much larger suburban-like dwellings, often negatively affecting the historic character of these neighborhoods, many of which are historic districts listed in the registers.

Many of Virginia’s rural counties and small towns are experiencing a decline in population, especially in Southside and Southwest Virginia. Lack of employment opportunities, a more aged population often with limited financial means, fewer services, aged infrastructure, and modern farming methods and practices threaten historic buildings in these areas with demolition, deferred maintenance, looting of historic fabric from buildings, and abandonment.

These population trends, however, also provide opportunities for historic preservation. As the cities are attracting a younger and often more affluent population that is drawn to historic downtowns and older neighborhoods with traditional infrastructure, commercial and residential development has increased in most major cities in Virginia. The investment opportunities, many made possible by the use of state and federal rehabilitation tax credits, have flourished, especially in the rehabilitation of large, previously derelict commercial buildings and warehouses for housing, mixed use, and public spaces. Many localities with strong preservation ordinances are ensuring the protection of a community’s landmarks while allowing them to be readapted to new uses. The trend of increased diversity in many communities is also allowing a more inclusive population to benefit from the economic, social, and aesthetic benefits of historic preservation.

TOURISM TRENDS

In a state known for its history, it is not surprising that heritage tourism makes a big impact on Virginia’s economy. In fact, tourism is the fifth largest industry in Virginia, and heritage tourism is an especially important component of revenue production for the state. Travelers consistently visit Virginia to enjoy its rich heritage, natural beauty, recreation, and authentic traveling experiences.

In 2019, Virginia tourism generated \$27 billion in visitor spending across communities in the state, supported 237,000 jobs, added \$6.4 billion to payrolls, and produced \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes to the Commonwealth. The tourism industry in Virginia continued to grow at a record level 10 years in a row with a compound

annual growth rate of 3.9 percent until 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of Virginia’s 133 counties and independent cities, 125 localities saw an increase in travel experiences in 2019. Forty-six localities received over \$100 million in domestic travel expenses; and 43 localities realized one thousand or more jobs that were directly supported by domestic travelers in 2019. DHR continues to provide advice and technical assistance to the Virginia Tourism Corporation in the promotion and support of its Black History Trail. A recovering economy in the post-pandemic years suggests a return to record levels of tourism in 2022.

According to data from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, 26 percent of all visitors to Virginia are interested in history, entertainment, and sightseeing. They spend an average of 3.5 nights and spend \$1,079 per trip. Top activities include visiting historic sites, churches, and houses; national parks and monuments; museums; and state parks and monuments. The largest percentage of visitors (21%) are in the range of 55-64 years of age, and they mostly favor travel during the months of April and June of each year.

Statistics show the heritage tourist is interested in visiting historic places that tell a compelling story and provide an authentic sense of place. A community’s most tangible reminders of its past are the buildings and artifacts that reflect its history and the peoples of the past, and Virginia has many examples of public attractions that provide visitors an authentic experience—

- *prehistoric and historic archaeological sites*
- *African American cultural sites*
- *statesmen and presidential birthplaces, estates, and museums*
- *colonial and antebellum plantations*
- *historic taverns and inns*
- *Revolutionary War and Civil War fortifications and battlefields*
- *sites associated with women’s history*
- *lighthouses and other maritime sites*
- *historic downtowns*
- *courthouses, churches, railroad depots*
- *buildings and sites important in the African American Civil Rights Movement, and much more.*

Heritage tourism supports the preservation of many of these attractions and contributes to community vitality in the patronage of restaurants, shops, bed and breakfast inns, and other historic accommodations. Without the support of heritage tourists and private endowments, many historic public attractions could not remain open to the public. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has identified five basic principles that most likely will result in successful heritage preservation programs. They are—

- *focusing on authenticity and quality*
- *preserving and protecting resources*
- *making sites come alive*
- *finding the fit between one’s community and tourism, and*
- *collaborating and forming partnerships.*

A recent and welcome trend at many public attractions has been to focus on providing the visitor with a more complete interpretation so as to include stories from the diverse and underrepresented communities that often have been left out of the traditional visitor experience in the past.

“Virginia is for Lovers,” created in 1969 by a Richmond advertising agency and adopted by the Virginia State Travel Service, is the most recognizable and iconic travel slogans ever crafted in America. Originally conceived as “Virginia is for History Lovers,” the slogan was shortened to attract a broader audience. It has generated millions of tourist dollars, much of it connected to heritage tourism. Fifty years later in 2019, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, once again officially adopted this popular slogan.

Efforts by the Virginia Tourism Corporation to draw large numbers of tourists back to Virginia’s beaches, mountains, and historic sites after the low levels of the pandemic years have been spurred by the corporation’s receipt of \$50 million in federal COVID relief funds. VTC plans to direct \$30 million of the funds to counties and cities across the state to be parceled out to 114 organizations to handle marketing for tourist destinations. The money will help with marketing programs and expanding efforts to attract visitors from other areas. Hopefully, in a post-pandemic era, heritage tourism will rebound to even higher levels than in earlier times.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The mission of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources “is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia’s significant historic architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources” and while the agency’s scope is rarely diverted from the diverse nature of Virginia’s past, it is also focused on the diverse nature of Virginia’s present. DHR serves many stakeholders, and a significant portion of our efforts have focused on the goal, especially since the administration of Governor Douglas Wilder, to ensure better representation of the history of underrepresented communities in the preservation programs administered by DHR.

Fortunately, DHR can report much success in these efforts, especially in the past two decades. Representation of the people, places, and key events of many diverse and minority communities has grown in milestone measures in the listings of properties in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, in the number of historic highway markers erected, and in the increase of many survey records into the Virginia Cultural Resources Information System. Since 2014, the number in awards from the historic preservation grant programs DHR administers on behalf of the Department of the Interior/National Park Service and the Virginia General Assembly to diversity-related preservation projects now exceeds \$17 million. And, although the General Assembly has not established a statewide grant program for the preservation of historic African American resources, DHR hopes to lead the way toward implementing this desperately needed program. In 2021, DHR applied to the NPS/Paul G. Bruhn Rural Revitalization Grant Program to create and administer a \$1 million sub-award program specifically for the rehabilitation of historic African American schools.

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“I think it is enormously important to communities of all sizes not only for educational reasons but for social justice as well. Historic preservation is a unique vehicle with which measures in social justice can be achieved. For example, preserving historic communities/resources of minority communities is key to not only include those critical narratives into the understanding of American history, but also to provide equal opportunities and resources for those communities that have long been underserved by the preservation community for years.”

DO YOU SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AS A COMMUNITY VALUE?

“Our citizens support historic preservation and are willing to invest public dollars to preserve, protect, and interpret historic structures and places. Historic preservation is a key part of our community ethos; it guides our planning and funding for economic development, transportation (walkable community), our Board of Architectural Review efforts, housing, open space, and recreation, among others.

The DHR continues to be a valuable partner and resource for our local government and community. I consistently remind our State Delegate and Senator of the important work you do for local communities. We support DHR continuing to “push the envelope” for new laws, standards, and guidelines for Va. communities. DHR’s plans to leverage social media and technology to provide technical advice and information to local governments and communities should be a top priority in your future planning. Thank you for your efforts. “

David Meyer, Mayor, City of Fairfax

statewide preservation organizations is a recent and welcome trend, one that forecasts a wider participation by underrepresented communities in the historic preservation world. Preservation Virginia, the largest statewide preservation organization in the state, has recently targeted more diverse communities in several goals of its strategic plan, in webinars on topics and issues of interest to underrepresented communities, and in the selection of minority sites and communities for its annual 11 Most Threatened Sites program. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has also focused on many diversity issues and properties in its online media as well as in the establishment of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a preservation campaign to preserve and protect places in African American history that have been overlooked in the past.

OPPOSITE: Maybelle Addington Carter and her husband Ezra, members of the Carter family of musicians, added the porch shown in the photograph to their home in far western Virginia's Scott County in 1936 (084-0015). In 1981 the house was purchased by June Carter Cash and Johnny Cash who continued to own it at the time of its listing in the registers in 1985. The modest yet highly significant property represents the Agency's goal to better reflect the diverse history of the Commonwealth and its citizens.

DHR is well aware that promoting a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the agency means more than providing programs and services to the multiple communities that comprise our Commonwealth. The process of embedding DE&I into all that we do on an internal basis has begun with the recent adoption of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence. That plan sets out goals, objectives, and strategies that will direct our energies toward a culture where employees, stakeholders, and residents are empowered. One of the most significant needs of the agency is to attract people from diverse backgrounds to consider building a career with DHR. For this reason and many others, the DE&I initiative supports and bolsters our efforts towards inclusive excellence.

Increasing the engagement of a diverse audience in programs, initiatives, and memberships in many national and

CONCLUSION

After more than 50 years of advances in the modern Preservation Movement since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, the same goals, then as now, are effective means to achieve successful historic preservation at the federal, state, and local levels. These goals include—

- identifying and recording historic resources through survey,
- listing the most significant resources in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places
- protecting archaeological and historic resources through federal, state, and local programs and measures,
- educating the public about the importance of historic preservation,
- revitalizing historic neighborhoods, downtowns, and warehouse districts through adaptive reuse of historic buildings, many of which would have been destroyed without the use of state and federal rehabilitation tax credits, and
- providing technical assistance and guidance to developers and owners of historic properties.

These goals and practices are all still pursued as best practices by local, state, and federal agencies and organizations dedicated to historic preservation.

Preservationists must continue to emphasize these traditional goals and practices today, especially in light of the conditions and trends discussed here. Although climate change, population increases, and natural disasters, for example, can have negative effects on historic preservation, these conditions can also provide opportunities to

promote historic preservation. Increased government funding, better education, fostering heritage tourism, using new technology, and the formation of stronger partnerships with organizations, many of which may not have been traditional partners in the past, can lead to new and perhaps unprecedented achievements in the world of historic preservation. An especially worthy goal, one that has received much attention lately, is bringing more representatives of minority and underrepresented communities to the table to expand preservation audiences in order to better understand and celebrate the full extent of community history.

Tangible benefits of historic preservation, such as rehabilitation projects, are often the most revealing and evident; however, intangible benefits such as a collective sense of place, economic vitality, sustainability, and quality of life enhancements must also be affirmed and emphasized as just as important values of historic preservation. This plan includes traditional goals and practices as well as new goals and objectives, a combination that better reflects Virginia’s stronger and more diverse preservation community of today.



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APPENDIX 1

ACRONYMS

AACR	African American Civil Rights (grants)	NHL	National Historic Landmark
ABPP	American Battlefield Protection Program	NHT	National Historic Trail
ABT	American Battlefield Trust	NPS	National Park Service
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places (also NR)
AIRC	American Indian Resource Center	NTHP	National Trust for Historic Preservation
ARK	Archaeological Resource Kit	PA	Programmatic Agreement
ASV	Archeological Society of Virginia	PDC	Planning District Commission
BHR	Board of Historic Resources	PID	Preservation Incentives Division (DHR)
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant	PVA	Preservation Virginia
CLG	Certified Local Government	QRE	Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses
CoVA	Council of Virginia Archaeologists	RCP	Resident Curator Program
CRM	Cultural Resource Management	RCD	Review and Compliance Division (DHR)
CSD	Community Services Division (DHR)	RTC	Rehabilitation Tax Credits
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office or State Historic Preservation Officer
DHCD	Department of Housing and Community Development	SIM	Survey and Information Management Division (DHR)
DHR	Department of Historic Resources (see also VDHR)	SOIS	Secretary of the Interior’s Standards
DSA	Division of State Archaeology (DHR)	SRB	State Review Board
ESHPP	Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund	SVBF	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	TCP	Traditional Cultural Place (or Property)
GIS	Geographic Information System	USFS	United States Forest Service
HBCU	Historical Black Colleges and Universities	VASSAR	Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution
HPC	Historic Preservation Commission	VBPF	Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund
HPF	Historic Preservation Fund	VCU	Virginia Commonwealth University
HTC	Historic Tax Credits	VDHR	Virginia Department of Historic Resources (see also DHR)
JTHG	Journey Through Hallowed Ground	VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or questioning)	VMHC	Virginia Museum of History and Culture
LVA	Library of Virginia	VIMS	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
MPDF	Multiple Property Document Form (also MPD)	VLR	Virginia Landmarks Register
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	VOF	Virginia Outdoors Foundation
NCSHPO	National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers	VOP	Virginia Outdoors Plan
NHA	National Heritage Area	VTC	Virginia Tourism Corporation
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act	W&M	College of William and Mary

APPENDIX 2

DHR PUBLIC SURVEY QUESTIONS

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is in the process of updating and revising its Statewide Preservation Plan, and we need your help as stakeholders to consider a wide range of strategies to identify, evaluate and protect historic places throughout Virginia. The implementation and success of a statewide preservation plan is possible only if the state’s preservation community shares its common goals and objectives. Therefore, we invite you to take our on-line survey to capture and illustrate your ideas and opinions about the current and future state of historic preservation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Information gathered from this survey will help us determine how best to serve you in telling and preserving Virginia’s diverse and rich heritage. Thank you for your participation in this important survey.

1. Which of the following categories best describes your connection to Virginia’s history and historic places? (Check ONE box for the response that best describes you)

- Government employee (local, state, or federal)
- Local historical society
- Museum or library
- Main Street, heritage tourism, or downtown organization
- Educator (at any level)
- Student (at any level)
- Caring resident
- Non-profit preservation organization
- Owner of a historic property
- Realtor or developer
- Preservation or Archaeology professional or consultant
- Avocational archaeologist
- Professional historian
- History enthusiast and/or heritage tourist
- Elected official (local, state, or federal)
- Other:

2. Which historic resources in your area do you consider the most important to preserve? Please rate the choices on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1) extremely important; 2) important; 3) somewhat important; and 4) not important

- Residences
- Archaeological sites
- Residential neighborhoods
- Downtowns/shopping centers
- Government buildings (courthouses, city halls, office buildings, etc.)
- Schools
- Religious buildings
- Cemeteries
- Rural landscapes
- Battlefields
- Civic/public spaces (parks, gardens, etc.)
- Theaters
- Transportation-related resources (railroad depots, gas stations, bridges)
- African-American resources
- Native-American resources
- Industrial resources (factories, warehouses, etc.)
- Agricultural resources (barns, silos, outbuildings, etc.)
- Monuments, statues, and public sculpture
- Other:

3. If you think it is important to preserve Virginia’s historic resources, please tell us how you would complete the following statement, “Preserving historic places in a community....” Please choose up to four choices below.

- preserves community character.
- creates opportunities for economic development.
- has environmental benefits such as conserving energy and saving space in landfills.
- demonstrates a respect for the past.
- tells the story of Virginia’s diverse history.
- leaves a legacy for future generations.
- brings tourism dollars to communities.
- creates educational opportunities for teaching about history and culture.
- reduces sprawl and saves farmland and open space.
- makes for livable communities and improves quality of life.

4. Which preservation activities should the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) give priority to during the next five years to protect historic and archaeological resources? Please rate your choices as 1) extremely important; 2) important; 3) somewhat important; or 4) not important.

- Surveying to identify historic buildings and structures
- Promoting the preservation of archaeological sites
- Nominating historic properties to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places
- Federal and state rehabilitation tax credits
- Securing preservation easements on qualified properties
- Review of state and federal projects for impact on historic and archaeological resources
- Funding programs (Certified Local Governments, Cost-Share, etc.)
- Partnering with local organizations to enhance historic downtowns and rural communities
- Assisting local preservation commissions
- Coordinating with state, regional, and local planning commissions
- Historic preservation training and educational workshops and seminars
- Recognizing the importance of diversity resources (African-American, Native-American, Asian-American, Hispanic-American, etc.)
- Cemetery preservation
- Working with other statewide preservation partners (Preservation Virginia, Archeological Society of Virginia, Council on Virginia Archaeology, etc.)
- Other:

5. Which historic resources in your area do you consider threatened? Check all that apply.

- Archaeological sites
- Downtowns and commercial areas
- Residential neighborhoods
- Farms and agricultural outbuildings
- Battlefields
- Transportation-related resources (bridges, gas stations, railroad depots, etc.)
- Government public buildings (courthouses, city halls, government office buildings, etc.)
- Schools
- Religious buildings
- Industrial properties (factories, warehouses, etc.)

Cemeteries and burial grounds
Ethnic/minority resources and communities
Landscapes (parks, gardens, rural landscapes)
Mid-20th-century or recent past architecture
Other:

6. What do you believe are the five most serious threats facing Virginia's historic resources today?

- Development pressures resulting in demolitions and sprawl
- Demolition by neglect
- Vandalism
- Agricultural practices resulting in the loss or neglect of barns and other outbuildings
- Apathy
- Lack of funding, both private and public
- Lack of awareness/interest in historic preservation
- Inadequate laws and ordinances to protect historic resources
- Uninformed decision makers
- Natural threats and disasters (including sea-level rise)
- Public works projects
- Projects sponsored by private/public utilities
- Lack of local protections (ordinances, staff, funding, etc.)

7. What five training, informational, or educational topics would be the most useful to you and your community in your preservation efforts?

- Rehabilitation of historic building features such as masonry, woodwork, windows, etc.
- Developing local planning tools, design guidelines, etc.
- Stewardship of archaeological sites
- Energy efficiency and weatherization in historic buildings
- Training for local preservation commissions and architectural review boards
- Review of infrastructure/development and the potential effect of federal projects on historic resources
- State and National Register nomination process
- Financial incentives for preservation and archaeology
- Training on laws protecting historic resources
- Documenting and preserving historic cemeteries
- Recording and documenting historic resources
- Preservation easements on historic properties

8. What do you consider the five most effective methods that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources can use to provide historic preservation information to the public?

- Access to VDHR staff by telephone and email
- Website
- Social media (Facebook, etc.)
- Public outreach events
- On-site staff assistance
- Training workshops (technical, planning, etc.)
- Off-site technical assistance
- Volunteer and intern opportunities

Publications
Exhibits

9. In which Independent City, Town, or County in Virginia do you reside?

10. How did you learn about this survey?

VDHR electronic newsletter
 VDHR website
 VDHR Facebook page
 Public meeting
 Listserv
 Local preservation program or commission
 Friend or colleague

11. What social media platforms do you regularly use now? Please check all that apply:

Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Snapchat
Pinterest
YouTube
Flickr
Other:

12. In which of the following age groups do you identify yourself?

Under 18 years old
19-24 years old
25-39 years old
40-64 years old
65 years and older
Prefer not to answer

12. Do you identify yourself with any particular ethnic heritage?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

12. How do your friends/family members perceive historic preservation—is it important to them?

15. Broadly, do you see historic preservation as a community value?



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