

Department of Historic Resources

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STATE APPROVES 18 NEW HISTORIC SITES FOR LISTING IN THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

–Listings cover landmarks in the counties of Accomack, Appomattox, Augusta, Botetourt, Dinwiddie, Loudoun, Mecklenburg, Rappahannock, and Scott; and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Richmond, and Roanoke –

RICHMOND – State-owned landmarks and the soon-to-be state owned Fort Monroe were among the 18 new sites added to the Virginia Landmarks Register by the Department of Historic Resources last week.

Among Virginia's many nationally significant and irreplaceable historic sites, Fort Monroe in **Hampton** was constructed, starting in 1819, by the United States to protect the fledgling nation and its capital of Washington D.C. One of many forts constructed along the eastern seaboard during the first-half of the 19th century to bolster U.S. coastal defenses, Fort Monroe, named for President James Monroe, was the largest stone fort ever built in the U.S. when completed in 1834.

Strategically located at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in Hampton Roads, Fort Monroe was vitally important to the Union military during the Civil War. The fort's casemates, located within its massive stone walls, are also where Chief Black Hawk and Jefferson Davis were imprisoned.

In addition to the stone fort itself, three buildings at Fort Monroe also were approved for listing in the VLR by the Department of Historic Resources' two boards during their joint quarterly meeting on June 17. They are--

- The Chapel of the Centurion, the Army's oldest wooden structure in continuous use for religious services. Consecrated May 3, 1858, the building is an adaptation of a small mission church designed by Richard Upjohn and published in his book *Rural Architecture*. The chapel features stained-glass windows designed by famous artisans such as Louis C. Tiffany, J.& R. Lamb Studios, R. Geissler, and the John Bolton School. The windows memorialize both individuals and events in U.S. military history as well showcase a nearly 100-year history of stained glass practice and design.
- Quarters 1, built in 1819 before the completion of the fortification walls, was the first permanent structure erected by the Army at the fort. The Federal-style building was

originally the home and office of Col. Charles Gratiot, the chief engineer in charge of the fort's construction. For many years it was the post's largest residence and home to the highest-ranking officer on post. Among the many important decisions made by military leaders who have resided there, the most significant may have been Union Gen. Benjamin F. Butler's 1861 declaration that runaway slaves were "contrabands" of war. The list of important leaders who have either resided or stayed at Quarters 1 includes Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de Lafayette, President Abraham Lincoln, and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

- Quarters 17, representative of only a few surviving antebellum buildings remaining at Fort Monroe, was built in 1823 as a quarters for the engineers erecting the fort. Quarters 17 is a two-story red brick dwelling on a full raised brick foundation. It possesses a full-façade, double-story porch on the building's front and one story porches on the sides. Located across from the present-day Casemate Museum, Quarters 17 was the residence of a young Robert E. Lee, who lived there with his wife from 1831 to 1834 while he was an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Built as one of the first permanent military housing structures on Fort Monroe, Quarters 17 served as a prototype for other buildings later constructed there.

DHR's effort to register the stone fort and its affiliated buildings anticipates the U.S. Army's conveyance of Fort Monroe back to the Commonwealth of Virginia when it departs the installation in 2011, under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation. The department has played a leading role in establishing guidelines for the fort's future once the state takes possession. Earlier this year, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation honored the Army and its partners, especially DHR, with an award for their "exemplary actions to preserve and protect" Fort Monroe. The Advisory Council's special commendation to DHR Director Kathleen S. Kilpatrick recognized the vital role the department has played in partnering with the Army and numerous consulting parties to forge an innovative agreement that will guide the fort's future preservation and use.

Current state-owned properties newly listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register include a stone bridge, a former chapel at the Central State Hospital, a 1920s-era skyscraper on Capitol Square as well as a house in Richmond associated with the women's suffrage movement, and a 4-H camp on state forest land.

- Hibbs Bridge is one of a dwindling number of stone arch "turnpike" bridges remaining in Virginia today and the third oldest bridge in **Loudoun County**. Constructed in 1829 along one of the earliest turnpikes in the state, Snickers Gap Turnpike, Hibbs Bridge is now owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation. The two span arch, fieldstone bridge was rehabilitated in 2007-08 and features stone parapets and wing walls.
- As part of the Central State Hospital, which opened in 1885 in **Dinwiddie County** as a segregated facility for mentally ill African Americans, the hospital's Chapel and Amusement Hall was built in 1904. The building was used for social activities such

as dances and concerts as well as daily and Sunday worship services. Today the chapel is a reminder of the state's unequal treatment of African Americans during the era of segregation and the evolving history of mental health treatment facilities.

- Located on Capitol Square in **Richmond**, the George Washington Building is a fine example of early 20th century high-style Beaux Arts-Renaissance skyscraper design. Completed in 1923 and recently renovated, the 12-story building was the Commonwealth's first dedicated state office building. Also included as part of the building's register listing is an early 20th-century water fountain that offers a focal point to the building's main entrance.
- Significant for its association with the founding of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia in 1909, the Crenshaw House, built in 1891, is now owned by Virginia Commonwealth University. The league, established by a group of socially influential Richmond women who met at the Crenshaw family home, dedicated itself to obtaining the vote for women and encouraging them to expand their traditional roles into politics and progressive reform movements.
- Embedded in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Camp Holiday 4-H Educational Center, located in Appomattox County, was originally created to house Works Progress Administration workers in 1937 who built the adjacent Holliday Lake State Park, including lake itself, and planted trees in the then-depleted surrounding farmland. In 1941 the 4-H Club acquired the camp under a 99-years lease with the state. Today the camp's WPA-era historic buildings include a mess hall, 15 cabins, a store and clinic, a main office, and from the 1950s a pavilion and amphitheater. [Note: Camp Holiday is spelled with one L, the lake/state park with two.]

Among the privately owned properties approved for listing on the state register from DHR's capital region, covering central and Southside Virginia, are the following:

- Cedar Grove, in **Mecklenburg County**, a Greek Revival-style house built circa 1838. Its design is unusual for a Virginia plantation house, consisting of a hip-roof main block on a raised basement with a large, hip-roof clerestory. Its fine brick masonry may have been overseen by Dabney Cosby, a workman for Thomas Jefferson during the construction of the University of Virginia. Unusual interior treatments in the house include woodwork with traits associated with Thomas Day, an African-American craftsman in nearby Milton, NC. Cedar Grove's other existing buildings include tobacco barns, slave quarters, and tenant houses that recall its former days as an antebellum tobacco plantation.
- The John Rolfe Apartments are a rare and early example of International Style residential architecture in **Richmond** and the surrounding region. Designed and built in 1940, the apartments are the most sophisticated of George Edward Hoppe Jr.'s buildings and best illustrate his interpretation of the International Style of architecture as practiced in Europe during the 1920s and 1930s.

In addition to Hibbs Bridge, landmarks listed from the department's Northern Virginia region, which covers the Shenandoah Valley, include the following:

- The Flint Hill Historic District, in northern **Rappahannock County**. The district arose as a crossroads community beginning in the 1740s and was established in 1843 by an act of the General Assembly. During the next century, the community grew into a thriving regional village. The compact, linear shaped historic district includes residential dwellings, retail and agricultural buildings such as apple-packing sheds, and schools and churches, all representing the village's development and exhibiting a variety of popular architectural styles such as Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate and Craftsman.
- Maple Front Farm, constructed around 1900 in **Augusta County**, features a well-preserved cluster of domestic and agricultural buildings that were once part of the original 185-acre farm amassed by the ancestors of the current owner. Today the farmstead is representative of small-scale diversified farming trends that occurred during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the Shenandoah Valley. Its late Victorian farmhouse also features interior decorative painting that may be the work of documented itinerant local painter Green Berry Jones.

The following three landmarks in DHR's Roanoke region, covering southwest Virginia, also were approved for listing:

- The Gate City Historic District, in **Scott County**, is a five-block district that emerged as a vital commercial hub for the surrounding countryside beginning in the 19th century. While settlement in the area began in the second half of the 18th century, the town was laid out in 1815 on the Wilderness Road and later became Gate City, so-named for its gateway-to-the west location. The town experienced rapid growth at the beginning of the 20th century. The historic district includes the Scott County Courthouse, built in 1829, as well as commercial buildings that illustrate a range of commercial architectural styles popular between 1900 and 1960.
- Greenfield, in **Botetourt County**, is the site of a plantation established in the mid-18th century by Colonel William Preston. He served under George Washington during a 1756 survey of the frontier, and also became a Revolutionary War officer and a member of Virginia House of Burgesses. The Greenfield site contains the remains of the plantation's house, which burned in 1959, a detached circa-1832 kitchen-dwelling, and a separate circa-1840s slave dwelling, both of log construction. The two log dwellings are all that survive of the many dependencies and agricultural buildings that once stood near the plantation house. Both log buildings are rare survivors and significant for their association with African American history, as well as the Preston family, one of southwest Virginia's most prominent families from the mid-18th century until the period following the Civil War. The county plans to restore both buildings, located today amidst a developing industrial park.

- **Roanoke's Windsor Avenue Apartments** embody a distinctive and well-crafted Tudor Revival design. The neighborhood, known as Greater Raleigh Court, developed in the early 20th century, and was annexed by the City of Roanoke in 1919. Designed in 1928 by the Roanoke architecture firm of Eubank & Caldwell for local businessman S. M. Cornett, the apartment building features a slate roof, half timbering and stucco, a stone foundation, and pronounced entryways, as well as notable landscape elements such as a center courtyard with stone sidewalks, wrought iron railings, ornamental ponds, and a water fall.

In addition to the Fort Monroe listings, the following landmarks from DHR's Tidewater region were also added to the state register:

- Lee Hall Depot, in **Newport News**, erected circa 1881 on the Chesapeake & Ohio rail line. The depot gave rise to the village of Lee Hall. A wood Stick-style building consisting of a two-story central section flanked by single-story wings, the depot also served communities in lower James City County. It is the only remaining station of five on the Lower Virginia Peninsula that resulted from the railroad's expansion into Warwick County (present-day Newport News). Passenger service at the station ended in the late 1970s, and in 2008 CSX (formerly C&O Railroad) donated the depot to the City of Newport News. The city relocated the building across the tracks to prevent its demolition and is restoring the depot to house a museum focusing on the area's history.
- Central High School is an imposing brick two-story building in **Accomack County**. Constructed in two phases between 1932 and 1935, it embodies the Art Deco style, a common design for American schools in the 1930s. In addition to the main building, the state register listing includes three contributing outbuildings which served as extra classroom space, a vocational school, and a home economics classroom. Central served as the only high school for this district of the county from its construction in 1932 until it became a middle school in 1984. It represents a vital piece of the community's history for much of the 20th century as an important educational center.

These new listings in the Virginia Landmark Register will be forwarded by Virginia's State Historic Preservation Officer— Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, director of the Department of Historic Resources—to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Listing a property on the state or national register places no restrictions on what a property owner may do with his or her property.

Designating a property to the state or national register does provide an owner the opportunity to pursue state or federal tax credit rehabilitation improvements to his or her property. Tax credit projects must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. An owner of a register-listed landmark may also donate a preservation easement on the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia in return for state tax credits.

Virginia is a national leader among the 50 states in registering historic sites and districts. The state is also a national leader for the number of tax credit rehabilitation projects proposed and completed each year. Together the register and tax credit rehabilitation programs have played a significant role in promoting the preservation of the Commonwealth's historic sites and in spurring economic revitalization in many Virginia towns and communities.

The nomination forms, which provide detailed information about each of the above listings, can be accessed on the DHR website at the following address:
<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/boardPage.html>.

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