



PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

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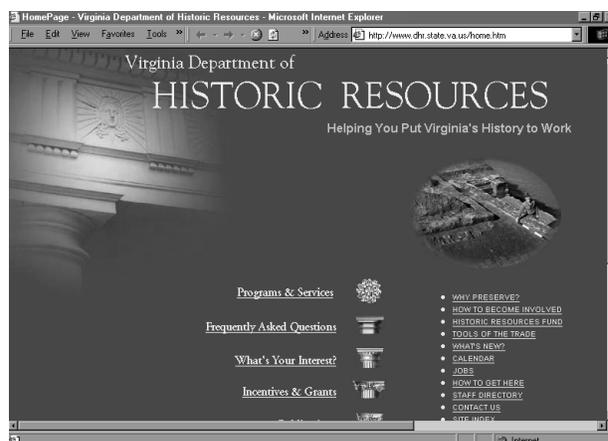
September 2001

New Site Goes Live on Internet

The Department of Historic Resources leapt forward technologically this summer by launching its new Web site. The site, www.dhr.state.va.us, went live in July, bringing DHR's programs and services to the Internet public with information about the benefits of preservation, funding opportunities, and easy access to forms and guidelines.

For those who are new to historic preservation, the site provides an introduction to its benefits in the "Why Preserve" section, an overview of the department's role in preservation in the "Programs" section, and opportunities to join in the action in the "How to Become Involved" section. The "Frequently Asked Questions" pages give immediate answers to many basic questions about the benefits and requirements of DHR programs and services.

Preservation-savvy users and clients already involved in DHR programs will find the "Download Library" a useful tool that provides one-stop shopping for preservation resources, DHR forms and guidelines, and links to the portions of the *Code of Virginia* related to historic preservation. The "Tools of the Trade" section is being developed as a virtual toolkit to put preservation resources at the fingertips of visitors. It contains links to the "Heritage Tourism" and "Community Awareness Campaign" sections



The DHR site, www.dhr.state.va.us, has a new look.

and the department's publications. People interested in starting preservation projects and programs will find the "Incentives & Grants" section a thorough guide to funding opportunities in Virginia and around the nation.

Teachers will find key educational tools in the "Education & Outreach" section, including architectural videos, archaeological resources, publications, and outside links such as Teaching With Historic Places and TimeTravelers. Archaeology enthusiasts and scholars can visit the "Archaeology" section to learn about DHR programs or "VA Arch-NET," the Virginia Archaeology Network, to tune into archaeological organizations around the state.

In the coming months, the Web site will continue to grow. Look for a prehistoric archaeology timeline, development of the "What's Your Interest?" section, and an online toolkit for the grassroots Community Awareness Campaign within the next year as DHR continues to bring preservation resources and tools online.

— Katherine Harding

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Brook Run Yields Extraordinary Findings

Archaeologists encounter sites like Brook Run, in Culpeper County, once or twice in a lifetime. This Paleoindian site yielded the recovery of at least 700,000 jasper artifacts and the discovery of a jasper seam in the bedrock that Native American occupants mined 11,000 years ago, making it potentially one of the earliest dated Paleoindian sites in the Middle Atlantic region.

The Brook Run site was identified during an archaeological survey project conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) before widening Route 3 from two to four lanes. Archaeological survey work is standard practice for most federally and state-sponsored road projects to assess potential harmful effects on historic resources and to mitigate them. The Department of Historic Resources staff provides an independent source of technical expertise for the review and evaluation of these archaeological projects. Close inspection of the projects and the data from them is a shared responsibility involving DHR archaeologists and VDOT's cultural resource managers.

After initial testing, the importance of Brook Run to Virginia and Middle Atlantic prehistory became obvious, causing VDOT to purchase the entire site to ensure that a portion of it will be preserved in an unaltered state. In consultation with DHR, VDOT determined that further research was needed at the Brook Run location.

Data recovery began in May 2000 and finished in March 2001. An impressive amount of fieldwork was accomplished, including the excavation of four backhoe trenches for geoarchaeological investigations, excavation of 85 1x1-meter units, completion of shovel tests, and the use of heavy equipment to expose the site's deepest deposits.

One of the most exciting aspects of project came about at the discovery of the jasper seam. This unique archaeological feature was filled with debris and cultural material, including two prehistoric hearths that consist of burned siltstone and rocks, jasper artifacts, and wood charcoal. Radiometric dating of samples of the wood charcoal yielded a series of remarkably early and consistent dates. The earliest date indicates that the site was occupied at the beginning of the Holocene time period—approximately 11,000 years before the present.

Additional significant information came from the presence of carbonized plant remains, pollen grains, and phytoliths,

silicone shells left behind by decayed plants. These findings enrich our knowledge of the lives of the early Virginians by offering a picture of the environment as it existed in Piedmont Virginia at the end of the Pleistocene period. This was a time of dramatic change as mixed forests of conifers and deciduous hardwoods were replaced by the modern hardwood forest (seen there today) of the early Holocene period.



Lewis Berger and VDOT archaeologists consult at Brook Run

In terms of age and content, the Brook Run site offers a research opportunity that will complement the work being done at the Cactus Hill site in southeastern Virginia. The fieldwork is complete, but the analysis of the artifacts has just begun and will provide even more information. For example, specialized analysis of the jasper will look for a unique chemical signature, which can be used to interpret prehistoric settlement patterns, social organizations, and trade networks.

That Brook Run was recognized as highly significant for its research potential is a credit to the cultural resource management professionals at VDOT and DHR, but most importantly the credit for the spectacular success of the project goes to the consulting archaeologists from the Louis Berger Group, Inc., who conducted the excavations. The information about Virginia's earliest Native Americans will benefit the general public and researchers, deepening our understanding of Virginia's earliest settlements.

—*Katherine Harding*

Director's Notes

It has been nine months since we last published *Preservation in Progress*. Forgoing two newsletters enabled us to build and launch the agency's new and greatly improved Web site (cover story). I am personally very pleased and proud of the dedicated, creative effort of DHR staff and of the result itself. The Web site launch, along with our other most recent efforts and partnerships, exemplifies what historic preservation is in the 21st century—inclusive, progressive, and an active and powerful tool to improve our lives and environment. And our role, now more than ever, is to inform citizens and community leaders about the benefits of preservation and the tools and options available for attaining their goals.

Toward this end, we are in the midst of completing work on the “The History Discovery Lab” exhibition that will be housed in the Virginia History Society, slated to open in January 2002. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, this education outreach effort will deepen visitors' understanding of why history and historic resources are important to the communities in which they live and to our culture at large.

The department is pleased to announce two excellent new publications, *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide*, written by DHR Historian John S. Salmon, and *Lost Virginia: Vanished Architecture of the Old Dominion*, co-edited by Senior Architectural Historian Calder Loth, in a joint project with the Virginia Historical Society. The guide is both the most comprehensive of its genre in Virginia, and a compelling argument for the preservation of Civil War battlefields. *Lost Virginia* is a hauntingly evocative record of significant resources that are lost forever, and consequently, a persuasive argument for good stewardship of our remaining treasures. Look for coverage of these books in our upcoming issue of *Notes on Virginia* in November.

In mid-summer, we co-hosted, along with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the FBI, a weeklong course on archaeological law enforcement that attracted participants from all over the country. Law enforcement officers and archaeologists from a dozen state and federal agencies learned about the laws, and how to investigate crime scenes and reduce the looting of fragile archaeological sites on America's public lands.

In order to deliver critical text and locational information on nearly 150,000 historic resources directly to researchers, scholars, and local, state, and federal agency planners' desktops, we are in the final stages of developing a password-protected, Web-enabled system that combines the best features of our current IPS database and MAPIT. This system, developed jointly with the Virginia Department of Transportation, will be the most sophisticated cultural resource data management tool in the country.

But our role in helping communities help themselves does not stop with publications, Web sites, and databases. In June, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Jackson Ward, in Richmond, one of America's Eleven Most Endangered Places. Known as the “Black Wall Street” during the early 1900s, this African American community drew some of the leading black entrepreneurs and entertainers of the period. Serving as a wake-up call rather than a death knell, the designation has resulted in city officials, local groups, private property owners, developers, and DHR staff working closely together to use rehabilitation tax credits in a historic district ripe for renewal.

Saving and renewing Virginia's historic places is not a job for just one agency, or for just state or federal or local leaders. It is not private *or* public. Nor is there any single answer to all of the preservation issues that we face. We all benefit from the results of good stewardship, and we are all a part of the solutions. A thank you to all our partners in preservation.

—Kathleen S. Kilpatrick

The Basics of Moisture Problems—What to Look for and How to Fix It

If you own a historic building, chances are you have probably seen, smelled, or heard evidence of water problems. Uncontrolled moisture is the most common cause of deterioration in historic buildings. If untreated, it can lead to eroding, corroding, molding, rotting, and destruction of materials, finishes, and structural components. Moisture can be controlled; with careful maintenance, you can provide the amount necessary for comfort as well as the longevity of historic building materials.



Downspouts carry water away from the building and prevent standing water from entering.

Identifying the type of moisture damage is crucial to managing any moisture problem. Some common signs of moisture damage include standing water, mold, mildew, wet stains, flaking paint, peeling wallpaper, dank or musty smells, rust or corrosion, warped or cracked wood, cracked masonry, eroded mortar joints, faulty roofs and gutters, condensation on windows or walls, or ice dams in gutters. Once signs of uncontrolled moisture are found, the next step is to determine the source.

Moisture often comes from a variety of external weather sources. But some of the most troublesome moisture damage in older buildings arises internally. The five most common sources of unwanted moisture are: 1) exterior moisture entering through deteriorating materials, 2) ground moisture, often caused by rain run-off, entering the building, 3) leaking pipes or equipment, 4) interior moisture from household use and climate-control systems, and 5) water used in maintenance and construction materials.

To prevent the common causes of moisture damage, certain exterior and interior areas of the building should be maintained regularly. First, make sure your roofing and guttering are weather-tight and operational. Depending on

the number of surrounding trees, gutters should be inspected at least twice a year, and the roof yearly. To prevent clogging, be sure to keep foliage and vines off of your building. Always replace missing and damaged shingles, slates, or tiles, cracked downspouts, and surface materials.

To prevent standing water around the building, eliminate low spots around foundations, clean downspout boots twice a year, and add extensions to them to carry water away. When cleaning steps and walkways, reduce the amount of moisture used. For additional precaution, perform a hose test to assess surface drains, check irrigation systems and hose bibs for leaks, and clear air conditioning drain outlets.

Within the building, inspect the crawl space for animal infestation, termites, and high moisture content to prevent moisture problems. Check foundation grilles seasonally to determine if they provide adequate ventilation and close them when appropriate. Increasing ventilation is essential if household-produced moisture is a problem. Try venting clothes dryers outside and installing exhaust fans in bathrooms, showers, and kitchens.

Equipment checks are the final step in moisture prevention. Check dehumidifiers, vent fans, and water detection or alarm systems for proper maintenance. On piping and ductwork, look out for condensation and insulate and seal them as necessary. If plumbing or radiator pipes are in areas subject to freezing, add insulation along outside walls, in attics, or in unheated basements. On all your mechanical equipment, keep condensation pans and drain lines clear and seal joints in exposed metal ductwork.

When dealing with moisture problems, it is best to try to eliminate one potential source at a time. Using more than one treatment can set up a new dynamic with its own set of moisture problems. Making changes in sequence allows for tracking the success of each treatment.

For properties with major or difficult-to-diagnose problems, a team approach is most effective. Working with preservation professionals, contractors, and consultants, the owner can monitor, select, and implement treatments that will manage moisture and protect the historic resource. As problematic as moisture can be to your building, following the right preventative steps and routinely checking for problems can make maintenance manageable.

—Bill Crosby

Excavations at Fort Uncover New Information



Volunteers at work at Fort Christanna

DHR archaeologist Christopher Stevenson led the second phase of a four-year archaeological excavation at Fort Christanna for six weeks this summer. The excavations, funded by the Earthwatch Institute of Maynard, Massachusetts, and supported by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Brunswick County Historical Society, and Brunswick County, attracted three teams of volunteers totaling 15 people. Many volunteers were high school teachers who will use their experience to develop classroom-learning plans.

Built in the early 1700s, Fort Christanna was created as a pentagonal palisade of split logs with a blockhouse at each corner. Previous excavations in 1979–80 located the palisade trench and four of the five blockhouses, but the exact location of the walls and their lengths were not fully documented. During the 2001 field season, old excavations were uncovered and new test units were completed to define the fort perimeter in detail.

Across from the fort, test investigations on the Meherrin River floodplain revealed a Native American settlement. Grit-tempered Native American ceramics were found associated with pieces of European lead shot. The location of European materials at the settlement suggested that it was occupied at the same time as Fort Christanna and that it may be what is generally referred to as the Saponi village. Additional testing of this settlement will be conducted this fall to better define the perimeter and age of occupation.

The next phase of excavation at the Native American settlement and fort will begin in June of 2002.

—Chris Stevenson

Virginia Archaeology Month

Virginia will hold its 12th annual celebration of archaeology in Virginia this October. Archaeologists and others have been working across the state to schedule some 50 events and activities for the month including special tours, hands-on events, exhibits of new archaeological discoveries, lectures by noted archaeologists, and family fun. The Blue Ridge is well represented with 17 exhibits or hands-on programs from Blacksburg to Independence, thanks to the hard work of David Rotenizer, president, Blue Ridge Area Chapter, Archeological Society of Virginia. Diane Stallings, Colonial National Historical Park, says that “Being part of this program allows the staff an opportunity to interact with visitors and do fun activities with children regarding the exciting things that are happening here at Jamestown in the world of archeological discovery.” To find out what is going on in your neighborhood, check the DHR Web site at www.dhr.state.va.us/arch_DHR/archmo.htm. Or contact the department for a calendar of events and a copy of the Virginia Archaeology Month poster.

—Beth Acuff



Sponsored by: The Stone House Foundation-Stephens City, VA. Archeology Society of Virginia Council of Virginia Archaeologists. The Discovery Program- Frederick County Public Schools Department of Historic Resources- 2801 Kensington Ave. Richmond, VA 23221- <http://www.dhr.state.va.us>

This year's theme and poster, designed by Butch Fravel, is sponsored by the Stone House Foundation of Stephens City, Virginia. It highlights The Discovery Program sponsored by the Frederick County Public Schools in which children are given the opportunity to participate in archaeological projects outside the classroom.

Toolbox Update

In keeping with the theme of National Historic Preservation Week 2001—"Restore, Renew, Rediscover Your Historic Neighborhood Schools"—volunteers in the statewide Community Awareness Campaign were visibly active in May highlighting the importance of saving historic neighborhood schools and recognizing outstanding local historic preservation efforts.



Representatives from the National Trust, the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, and DHR led the first in a series of networking sessions across the state.

The Shenandoah Preservation League held a preservation fair, barbecue, and "Excellence in Preservation" awards ceremony near Woodstock. Award recipients included the John B. Handley High School in Winchester; the Warren County Courthouse; Front Royal Methodist Church; Handley Library in Winchester; the Mary Lowery Farm in Shenandoah County; Maral Kalbian and the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society for their publication *Frederick County: History Through Architecture*; and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission for its plan for preserving and interpreting 10 nationally significant battlefields. Also striking the national preservation keynote, Preservation of Historic Winchester, the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, and DHR's Winchester regional office co-sponsored a public program on historic school buildings of the lower Shenandoah Valley.

The Preservation Alliance of Virginia held its statewide conference during National Historic Preservation Week. The Roanoke conference included a workshop on saving historic neighborhood schools highlighted by the successful efforts of Kimball David and the Norfolk Heritage Alliance

to save the Blair School. Presentations by representatives of the National Trust and the Virginia Department of Education discussed policy and funding issues related to the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic schools versus new construction. DHR's Roanoke Regional Advisory Committee held its annual spring meeting on the conference's opening day.

Richmond's celebration of historic preservation week was notable for its unified presentation of citywide preservation efforts and its diverse offering of walking tours through historic neighborhoods. To kick off the week, Preservationists for Progress, a grassroots civic roundtable facilitated by the Historic Richmond Foundation with support from a consortia of heritage groups, published an illustrated guide to local events that appeared as an advertorial in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Along with a schedule, the guide included contacts for technical assistance and frequently asked questions and answers about preservation and Richmond's historic neighborhoods. During the week, preservation and neighborhood groups cooperated in holding open houses at two historic schools and walking tours in seven historic neighborhoods.

Building on the success of Preservation Week 2001, preservation groups in Richmond have begun to hold a quarterly forum called Restore Richmond! to coordinate and strengthen preservation efforts and rehabilitative growth. Hosted by the Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods (ACORN), the forum held in July at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Jackson Ward featured reports from each of the 20 preservation groups in attendance. It also focused on the challenge of revitalizing Jackson Ward, recently designated as one of America's Eleven Most Endangered Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

To encourage further cooperation statewide, the National Trust, the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, and DHR are partnering to present a series of regional networking workshops for private nonprofit preservation organizations and Certified Local Governments. Toolbox leaders in the Shenandoah Valley were well represented at the inaugural workshop, held at Belle Grove in Middletown, Frederick County, in July. Workshops are planned for the capital region and for Hampton Roads area in early fall. For further information, call your nearest regional office.

—Bob Carter

2001 CLG Grants Announced

The department awarded federal preservation matching grants totaling \$69,413 to seven of Virginia's 24 Certified Local Governments this year that will leverage \$65,000 in local funds to make feasible nine preservation projects. **Arlington County** will leverage a \$10,000 grant to assist in preparing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Lyon Park neighborhood, a historic context for 20th-century garden-apartment complexes, an individual national register nomination, and two preliminary nomination forms. **Clarke County** will use a \$10,385 grant to develop a historic context for understanding and preserving the county's African American heritage sites. **Hanover County** will receive \$10,500 for preparation of a national register nomination for Hanover Wayside, and for an archaeological investigation of the Merry Oaks Tavern site. **Leesburg** will receive \$10,500 to survey, map, and place in historic context the town's remaining Civil War fortifications, and to survey a possible addition to the Leesburg historic district. **Middleburg** will conduct an architectural survey of a possible addition to its historic district with an award of \$4,528. **Petersburg** will use an \$8,500 grant to develop design review guidelines for local historic districts. Receiving a \$15,000 grant award, the city of **Richmond** will undertake an architectural survey of and prepare a national register nomination for the Oakwood/Chimborazo Historic District.

—Bob Carter

Staff Update

DHR has seen much change in its staffing over the last year. Last winter, Kathleen Kilpatrick was named director of the department and State Historic Preservation Officer. Formerly deputy director, Kilpatrick has been with DHR for six years. We are also pleased to welcome several new members to the team. Working as Information Technology Specialist, Michelle Reid joined DHR in August 2000. In the Resource Services and Review division, Ethel Eaton, archaeologist senior, now serves as team leader, with Angela Edwards, preservation program coordinator; Marc Holma, project review architectural historian; Lily Richards, project review archaeologist; and Margaret Roberts, tax credit program technician, joining the division. In January, the Roanoke regional office hired Michael Pulice as architectural historian. The Administrative Services division welcomed Melissa Rose as the new fiscal officer. Margaret Peters, longtime DHR staff member, is now the head of a reconstituted survey and register section in the Resource

Information Division. Other staff members who have changed positions include Quatro Hubbard, who was hired as the archivist last winter and Virginia McConnell, who now manages the Rehabilitation Tax Credit and Historic Preservation Easement Programs. These additions bring a powerhouse of talent to the department, continuing our efforts to increase customer service and accessibility to historic preservation programs.

Several former DHR staff moved on to exciting preservation-related challenges. Former director Alex Wise left the department to direct the Tredegar National Civil War Center, to be established in Richmond. Scott Brooks-Miller, formerly of the Winchester regional office, is now Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer in Wyoming. Mary Ruffin Hanbury, of the Portsmouth regional office, has joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a regional leader in Charleston, South Carolina. And Cara Metz, former director of Resource Services and Review, left this summer to become the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. While these staff members will be missed, we are pleased that they have continued to work as champions of historic preservation.

Calendar of Events

October

1-30 Virginia Archaeology Month (Statewide). See article (p. 5) for details.

19-21 Archaeology Society of Virginia Annual Meeting (Williamsburg). This conference offers an array of archaeology-related activities including paper presentations, a banquet, and an awards ceremony. More information is available at www.archsocva.org

December

5 Joint Board Meeting (Richmond). Meeting to consider nominations of historic properties to the national and state registers, historic preservation easements, and historical highway markers. Location: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Avenue. Open to the public. Contact: Marc Wagner, (804) 367-2323, ext. 115, mwagner@dhr.state.va.us.

15 Highway Marker Application Deadline (Statewide). All historic highway marker topics to be considered at the March 2002 board meeting must be submitted by this date. Contact: Scott Arnold, (804) 367-2323, ext. 122, sarnold@dhr.state.va.us.

More preservation happenings online at www.dhr.state.va.us

Comprehensive Plan: "Putting Virginia's History to Work"

Based on input from citizens around the state on historic preservation issues, DHR staff revised its statewide comprehensive historic preservation plan, published this summer. The plan looks at what Virginians have told us about their visions of how historic places can work for them, at success stories, at the range of the resources in their communities, and at the tools that citizens and organizations can use as good stewards. In adopting this plan, the department redoubles its commitment to put Virginia's historic resources to work for the educational, economic, and community benefit of its citizens. Look for it this fall on the new Web site, www.dhr.state.va.us. Clients without internet access may request a copy at (804) 367-2323.

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