

SLIDE NUMBER	TEXT
1	<p>The Wythe County architectural survey is the result of a partnership between the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Wythe County government and Wythe County Historical Society. It was implemented by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research and Hanbury Preservation Consulting.</p> <p>This is scripted slideshow is one of the deliverables for the survey. In addition to the survey materials and survey report, this presentation explains the background for the project, previous survey history in Wythe County, reviews the scope of work for the project, explains some of the terminology for the survey and then focuses on findings and results from the project .</p>
2	<p>The impetus for the survey, drawn directly from the Request for Proposals issued by the county, states in part “though sporadic studies have occurred, coverage has been geographically erratic and the level of documentation is inconsistent; this survey is intended to remediate major deficiencies in County-wide survey coverage.”</p>
3	<p>It continues “the data collected from the survey will be used for recognition and protection of important properties in short and long-range land-use planning, to encourage preservation easements and land conservation, and to help inform the public and serve as an educational tool; the project will support the county’s heritage tourism and economic development programs and will facilitate federally mandated environmental review projects.”</p>
4	<p>With that in mind I'd like to review history of survey in Wythe County before this project.</p> <p>The earliest files on record with the state date to 1938 and they're from the WPA sponsored Virginia Historical Inventory Project. Only a small number of properties in Wythe County were documented and at a very cursory level (maybe one or two photographs and a very brief written description); in 1958 and again in 1967 the federal Historic American Buildings Survey again sent surveyors across the Commonwealth of Virginia and included Wythe County in a limited fashion. In the 1960s and early 1970s the Virginia Landmarks Commission, the predecessor of the current Virginia Department of Historic Resources, documented a few major properties</p>
5	<p>For example, Zion Lutheran Church and Cemetery was surveyed in 1978.</p>
6	<p>From the 1960s through the 1990s only seven individual architectural properties in with county were listed on the National Register of Historic Places (although a large portion of the town of Wytheville was listed on the National Register of Historic Places 1994). Currently there are only two historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the entire county: Wytheville and the village of Foster Falls.</p>
7	<p>Here is a photo of the Fosters Falls Train Station.</p>
8	<p>There was no significant survey conducted in the county at all between 1994 and 2004 with the exception of some section 106 work in limited areas. Section 106 refers to a section of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that mandates that any federal undertaking (that is an activity that uses federal funding, grants, loans, permits, or licenses) requires a survey of historic properties to determine if the proposed undertaking will have an effect on those properties, if the effects will be adverse and if they will -- how they might be mitigated. For this reason much of the survey work done between 1994 and 2004 falls around roadways as they are associated with road building projects funded by the federal government. Between 2004 and 2011, 43 individual properties were and surveyed by staff from the Western Preservation Office at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.</p>
9	<p>At the beginning of this project the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ archives held only 413</p>

	architectural records for all of the county (excluding the records developed for the Wytheville historic district). Of those, 327 represented resources built before 1941; 176, resources built before 1901 and only 134 for resources built before 1891. There was no clear understanding which of those previously documented resources were still extant. As part of the current survey a small number of previously surveyed properties were re-surveyed.
10	The scope of work for this project was a county-wide architectural survey identifying for the most part properties dating from 1940 and earlier-- in some cases re-surveying significant previously documented properties with the augmentation of existing files held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources--avoiding any resources that had been documented since about 1990
11	For the survey 375 properties were to be recorded. 350 of those would be surveyed at the reconnaissance level and 20 at the intensive level.
12	Priorities for this survey were : previously undocumented significant structures dating to the 18th and 19th centuries; buildings and sites of special significance from the first half of the 20th century; identification of any potentially eligible historic districts; and imperiled resources or those threatened by planned development
13	So the survey looked closely at places such as Ivanhoe as possible historic districts
14	I want to explain the terms that were used a few minutes ago: reconnaissance and intensive survey.  Reconnaissance survey is the baseline data required for survey projects conducted at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources standards. Reconnaissance survey includes exterior photographs of the building including all elevations if possible, the mapping of the site using United States Geological Survey topographical maps; the creation of a sketch site plan, usually hand-drawn and not to scale; a written architectural description of the exterior of the building; entry of specific data into a database that would include style, materials, age, and information about the current survey; and then a statement of significance that explains why this building may be important.
15	Intensive survey builds on the reconnaissance survey with interior photographs, a sketch floor plan (again usually drawn by hand and not to scale), and an expanded statement of significance.
16	Having reviewed the scope of work, the reasons for this project, the status of survey in Wythe County up to the point of the survey, and explained some of the terminology, let's turn to findings and results
17	First are two maps. The first map is developed using the data that was on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources before the survey began. As you look at this map, the red diagonal grid represents the various United States Geological Survey topographic maps that contain Wythe County. The irregular red outline is Wythe County. Topography and major roads are indicated and incorporated areas are outlined in pink. The yellow dots represent the surveys that had been done in Wythe county prior to this project. As you can see, there's a concentration around Wytheville. A concentration south of the interstate between Rural Retreat and Wytheville represents the beginnings of a proposed rural historic district of which was never listed on the National Register. With the exception of a couple of other scattered sites, the vast majority of the surveyed resources lie within transportation corridors. This would correspond with the fact that for a large period of time, the majority of survey work was a result of Section 106 for federally funded road projects
18	The second map shows survey coverage of Wythe County at the completion of this project. The original dots that in the previous map are yellow are still included but you'll see a greater geographical span of survey particularly up in the north along Crockets Cove Road and down in the Southeast portions of the county. One of the priorities and part of the methodology for the survey was to go places that had not

	been adequately documented to insure diversity not only of types and ages of resources but also location, which this map illustrates.
19	<p>Using Virginia Department of Historic Resources survey guidelines, one of the organizing methodologies for looking at the sheer mass of data that is collected during a survey is to categorize resources by themes. After introducing the themes, we will look at some of the resources that were surveyed organized by themes.</p> <p>The 18 themes that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources uses to categorize resources are: Domestic, Subsistence/Agriculture, Government/Law/Political, Health Care/Medicine, Education Military/Defense, Religion, Social, Recreation/Arts...</p>
20	Transportation/Communication, Commerce/Trade, Industry/Processing/Extraction, Landscape, Funerary, Ethnicity/Immigration, Settlement Patterns, Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning, Technology/Engineering.
21	The vast majority of the resources surveyed were domestic which is not unusual for a countywide survey. 278 resources were classified as domestic; of those 232 were solely domestic and an additional 46 were cross-referenced as domestic and subsistence agriculture
22	All time periods recorded in the survey were represented in the Domestic theme. Architectural styles included: Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Tudor Revival, Vernacular and Victorian. Most of the houses were single-family. Notably there were log houses, I houses, and tenant houses. Let's look at some of the domestic resources
23	The craftsman house on your left is on Parsonage Avenue in Rural Retreat and exhibits the tapered columns and exposed rafter tails that are hallmarks of the style. To the right is a Colonial Revival house on Cripple Creek Road with an unusual Cross-Gambrel roof.
24	The house at 468 Ward Branch Rd., to your left, is an early house in the Federal style which we will see again later in the program. On the right, on Crockets Cove Road, is an example of Greek Revival architecture with its broad cornice and corner boards.
25	On your left at Peppers Ferry Rd. is an example of the Italianate style with decorative console brackets at the cornice. To the right is a somewhat unusual and rarely represented style, the Tudor Revival, a fairly sophisticated choice in the small town of Ivanhoe
26	This vernacular house on Crawfish Road to the left is a small, one-story house with side gables and a central cross gable is sometimes referred to as a Triple A cottage with the three gables being represented as capital letter A's. The house to the right with its asymmetrical massing and decorative vergeboard trim is a good example of folk Victorian architecture, found in Max Meadows.
27	The Queen Anne style, a somewhat more sophisticated version of the Victorian, finds a good example in Rural Retreat on Delp Avenue to the left. In addition to specific styles, certain housing types were found during the survey, one being the tenant house. To your right is a good example of a tenant house found on Peppers Ferry Road
28	Houses known as I houses were also found. This is a form, not a style that is a two-story, side gabled house, usually 3 to 5 bays across and often with a porch. A good example of this on your left is a house on Peridot Lane. The house on Felts Lane to the right was one of several log houses found during the survey. This one was in fairly good shape compared to some others and still has a fairly stable stone foundation.

29	The next most popular type of resource documented was in the subsistence agriculture theme. There were 58 resources total with 44 cross-referenced with the domestic theme and another two with the industry/processing/extraction theme--the latter two were furnaces which were resurveyed and had agricultural outbuildings on the premises.
30	As far as those cross-referenced with domestic, this is not surprising to anyone who lives in the county. It is not unusual for a dwelling which is not a farm per se to have agricultural outbuildings like this house on Virginia Avenue in Max Meadows.
31	This building on Peppers Ferry Road is largely abandoned and overgrown. It has a prominent barn, a log smokehouse, and two additional log outbuildings behind the house. The barn and smokehouse are between the road and house and very visually prominent.
32	Fracture Creek Farm is a Greek Revival I house that has a large double-pen log bank barn dating to the first half of the 19th century,--a massive structure still used for its original purpose and in very good shape.
33	Other surveyed resources that were solely agricultural include a log barn on Stony Fork Road, a silo on Kaiser Road and...
34	...this large dairy barn on Red Hollow Road still in viable contemporary agricultural use.
35	The next most populous theme was Commerce/Trade. The 25 resources classified as commerce and trade included stores, commercial buildings, a hotel and a blacksmith shop.
36	Here are two stores-- the one on the left, on Austinville Road, is a 20th-century store that likely included a gas station at some point as it is oriented towards a major transportation route. On the right what is now known as Mom's Old Curiosity Shop in Max Meadows has a somewhat unusual gable roof with a frame parapet.
37	One other parapet roofed commercial building, this one in brick, is to the right on Painters Hill Road. Another commercial building which was documented is on Baumgartner Avenue in Max Meadows, to your left.
38	The blacksmith shop on Francisville Road falls within the category on Commerce and Trade as well.
39	Under the religious theme there were 28 resources --all are Christian churches; most were built between 1850 and 1950; and the styles in which these churches were executed include Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Victorian, Colonial Revival and Romanesque.
40	Max Meadows United Methodist Church on the left is in the Romanesque Style, while Grace Lutheran Church is a Victorian style church.
41	Two good examples of Greek Revival are the Galena Presbyterian Church on the left and the abandoned Union Church on the right. Both have a gabled, temple form (the Presbyterian church having a pedimented gable) and both with broad cornices under the eaves and prominent corner boards.
42	The education theme had 14 resources; all were from the first half of the 20th century. Some are still active, some have been repurposed and some are vacant.
43	Two Colonial Revival style schools still in use with later additions are: Speedwell Elementary School to the left and Jackson Memorial Elementary school to the right.

44	A number of the schools surveyed had been abandoned-- to the left the school on Fleming Road, to the right the Matthews School and at the bottom the incredible ruin of the Ivanhoe school.
45	Nine funerary resources were documented. Seven were cross referenced with religion meaning that seven churches that were documented had associated cemeteries.
46	The two that were solely funerary were the Davis Cemetery and the Bethany Hill Cemetery.
47	The government/ law/ politics theme had only six resources-- two post offices and four rescue squads.
48	The two post offices (Foster's Falls to the left and Speedwell to the right) though not identical are similar in terms of shape, size, form, massing, and materials.
49	Four rescue squads were documented; three of them were concrete block with a rectangular footprint with two vehicle bays, like this one in Ivanhoe. While not the most aesthetically interesting building, it appeared throughout the county as a testimony to a regional approach for providing emergency services to the citizens through a coordinated campaign to improve public health emergency services.
50	There were eight resources recorded that represented the industry/ processing/ extraction theme. Three had been previously recorded. The three are furnaces. They were on a small list of properties developed with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in advance of the survey of resources that would be allowed to be resurveyed as the existing survey data on them was old and needed revision. In addition to the furnaces, a mill, a coal yard, company stores and a lumber yard were also documented.
51	Here are the three furnaces that were re-surveyed: the Walton furnace, the Brown Hill furnace and the Noble furnace.
52	The Beverly Mill also known as the Cripple Creek Mill to the left was re-surveyed. Although it has been altered its basic form remains the same. To the right is the Thompson Coalyard which still has its drive-through scales under the porte cochere at the front
53	The surveyors recorded four resources in the social category. Two of them are Masonic Lodges-- one on Painters Hill Road in Ivanhoe on the left and the Mount Airy Masonic Lodge in Rural Retreat on the right.
54	Additionally, they surveyed the Lead Mines Ruritan Club on the left and the Patterson Community Center to the right, which may at one point have been a school given its design particularly the large windows.
55	Only two resources had a connection to recreation and the arts. The Mill Creek studio which is also noted for the architecture of the house associated with has an active weaving studio on your left. The Big Walker Lookout Tower to the right was not originally a fire tower or some sort of defensive structure but was purpose built for entertainment.
56	Dr. Grubbs office was the only resource associated with healthcare and medicine that was recorded.
57	The technology theme also had only one resource--the New River Gaging station in Ivanhoe. It is a large poured concrete structure at the New River that has within it a mechanism that goes into the river and measures the volume and flow of the river. Through technology, the collected data can provide real-time statistics via the internet.
58	Finally, there were two resources in the transportation communication theme both that were at one point

	associated with the sale of gasoline ET Lures and Stoots Corner Convenience Store.
59	Twenty properties were chosen for intensive survey. The initial choices were made in collaboration with the historical society. Some of these were inaccessible and replacements were made trying to select a diversity of resources where interior access would be value-added. In the slides that follow, out of respect for privacy for homeowners, interiors will not be shown though interior documentation is on file with the State and County.
60	This building is the Quaker Meeting House in Speedwell dating to the second half of the nineteenth century. It is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style, remarkably sophisticated and unusual for this part of the state. It is a classic Greek temple form constructed of brick with a stone foundation. The masonry has been stuccoed over and the stucco has been scored or tooled with a knife in order to look like stone. This was a common practice in coastal areas where there was not native stone, however in Wythe County, ironically, there is stone in abundance. Used now for hay storage it has structural failings in the interior. Protective measures should be taken to secure the open windows and the roof to further protect the interior.
61	St. Patrick's Catholic Church-- according to the cornerstone it was built in 1906 but is thought to house an even earlier congregation established prior to the Civil War. Like the Quaker Meeting House, St Patrick's is relatively unaltered from the time it was constructed. There's been no addition of modern systems and plumbing and no mechanical and electrical systems. The beautiful shiplap siding and very simple appointments retain a high degree of integrity.
62	Huddle Memorial United Methodist Church is one of a handful of surviving country United Methodist churches found in the Cripple Creek area. It is also an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style, which proved quite popular for rural churches throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. High-style elements such as towers and tracery windows were common, as were the pointed Gothic arched windows and entrances.
63	Timothy P. Mattimoe, in his article <i>Preserving the Rural Church</i> states that "The Primitive Baptists are a relatively small group independent Protestant churches found throughout the United States, but concentrated primarily in the South. Formed in 1827, the Primitive Baptists are distinguished by their belief in predestination, independence of individual congregations and, for the most part, the use of small, relatively unadorned, church houses. . . . Primitive Baptists do not tithe, nor do they normally engage in fundraising activities to finance the building of church houses. Therefore most rural congregations worship in small, relatively austere frame buildings." Charity Primitive Baptist Church built c 1912 reflects these values.
64	Living Hope Bible Church began as Black Lick Presbyterian in 1851 and then was known as Mount Airy Presbyterian. This folk Victorian building was dedicated in 1893 as Rural Retreat Presbyterian. Currently, the building houses the Living Hope Bible Church. The Living Hope Bible Church is within the boundary of the eligible Rural Retreat Historic District and would be potentially eligible as a contributing element. Though clad in later synthetic siding, historic photographs show shingling and details particularly on the steeple that may still remain.
65	Rural Retreat United Methodist Church is an excellent example of the Akron plan church. First developed in 1872 at the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio. The plan provides a rotunda space for worship with two adjacent levels for Sunday school classes allowing for ease in circulation between worship and study. The plan spread through its publication in popular pattern books
66	This is the Corinth School, adjacent to the Corinth Lutheran Church According to court records research by Mary Kegley (1989:151), a "neat school house with at least three rooms" that the Black Lick District School Board planned to build in 1906 refers to the Corinth School. Based on this record and the design

	of the building, the school probably was built sometime soon after the 1906 school board decision. Though repurposed as an auto shop, many interior appointments remain including partition walls, beadboard wainscot, original flooring, chalkboards and large windows to aid in circulation and natural lighting.
67	The barn on St Peter's Road was chosen as an intensive to represent a number of findings from the survey. It is an agricultural resource reflecting the county's long agricultural history. It is one of a handful of log structures documented during the survey representing a mode of construction widely used in the area in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. And it dates to before the civil war, thus making it one of the older resources documented. It is in remarkably good condition a testament to the builders' skills and the quality of construction materials. And it is still in agricultural use today
68	Carpenter's Grocery was originally operated as a company store for the Virginia Iron and Coal Company. It also housed a commissary, post office and doctor's office. It has Greek Revival features including a raking cornice and corner boards. The interior has a traditional plan with historic shelving, dry good drawers and hardware. It continues to operate as a store and continues to be heated by a coal stove.
69	The Stoots Corner Convenience store is a good resource to compare and contrast with the Carpenter store. Though smaller, the plan of the primary interior space is remarkably similar and Stoots corner also retains its historic shelving. Not associated with a mine however, this store originally had gas pumps and reflects the growing important of the automobile to commerce and trade given its location at a prominent intersection on Grayson turnpike
70	This is the Huddle Farm. The Huddle farm has been in the Earhart-Huddle family since the early nineteenth century. The house and surrounding outbuildings are an excellent example of an intact working farm with outbuildings spanning over a century illustrating the evolving of a large and prosperous family farm. The house is an interesting example of folk Victorian, I-house and Classical Revival forms which also illustrate the continued updating of a house by its owners.
71	The current Mill Creek Studio was built in 1911. Its Victorian architecture is prominent given its location outside of a town center. The house retains interior pocket doors and fine paneling thought to be replicated from a neighboring church. The staggered recessed panels on the stair wall are particularly fine.
72	The house at 152 Poplar Drive in Ivanhoe is also a god example of Victorian architecture, this time in the more exuberant Queen Anne variation and rendered in frame. Its asymmetrical massing, wrap porch, canted bay, vergeboard and brackets are all hallmarks of the style. At the time of the survey, the interior is currently being renovated.
73	The house at 106 Brown Town Road is one for the few inhabited log houses documented during the survey. Though it has a rear frame addition, the original footprint of the building and its modest scale continue to be expressed. According to the residents the deed dates to the 18 <sup>th</sup> century however the building itself likely dates to the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century. The primary living space on the first floor features a large hearth and fireplace.
74	The house at 1078 Ramsey Mountain Road is by outward appearances a Victorian I house with a rear ell. However the rear ell is actually the original core of the house, a two story log dwelling that was expanded with a later Victorian front. It serves as a good contrast to the previous house on Brown Town Road as it shows a different way that a modest log house has been adapted for 21 <sup>st</sup> century domestic use.
75	The last of the log dwellings, 3096 Major Grahams Road is said to have originally been a kitchen for a

	<p>larger house now destroyed. The size and scale of the fireplace and chimney would support this theory. It is now however used as living space with a frame addition sheltering a chimney that may have served dual spaces.</p> <p>According to Mary Kegley, as recently as the mid-twentieth century, the county contained several hundred examples of log construction, a number that has recently diminished to perhaps a few dozen examples.</p>
76	<p>The house at 6464 Peppers ferry Road is an example of the Italianate style. As with Mill Creek Studio the scale and architectural sophistication of the house are unusual so distant from a town center. The interior retains significant features and trim including mantles and stair and the exterior has massing, trim and brickwork details such as the canted bays, arched window opening and brackets indicative of the Italianate style</p>
77	<p>The house at 301 West Baumgartner is also known as the historic Sprinkle Hotel. Built in 1857, the building has been subsequently expanded. A large room at the front once served as a dining room and a transverse stair hall serviced numerous rooms on all three floors. Those on the third floor (and one is pictured here) retain mostly closely a historic appearance with exposed hardwood floors and vertical sided wainscoting.</p>
78	<p>The house at 468 Ward Branch Road is an early federal era house and one of the more sophisticated and better preserved of the dual entrance houses we documented. Dual entrance houses have been documented as being largely a phenomenon of German builders in PA who migrated along the mid Atlantic states. It is not the strict flurkuchenhaus floor plan, which generally had a central fireplace and three rooms, but does have the dual entrances and winder stair typical of early German houses found in Pennsylvania.</p>
79	<p>Finally we have the John Repass Rock House or GrayStone, c 1820. John Repass, who built the stone house, was a son of Rev. Jacob Repass, minister of the German Reformed Church, who came from Germany to Pennsylvania about 1750 where he remained until about the close of the Revolutionary War. He then immigrated to Wythe County. Like the house on Ramsey Mountain road, it is an evolved house with a rear ell that actually predates the portion currently serving as the façade.</p>
80	<p>Having shared some of the survey highlights, I would like to close with the project's recommendations.</p> <p>First, Further Comprehensive Survey-- while this survey did document a large number of previously unrecorded resources, there remain some resources to be surveyed including post 1950s buildings and additional re survey of previously recorded resources.</p> <p>Second Pursue National Register Designations—once the Virginia Department of Historic Resources evaluation team reviews the intensive surveys, those deemed eligible for listing should be nominated to the National Register. The Historical Society could host a workshop to discuss the National Register process and its benefits and specifically invite owners of eligible properties.</p>
81	<p>Third, Pursue Historic District Designations—we believe there are at least four possible National Register historic districts Rural Retreat, Newtown, Ivanhoe and Max Meadows. Additional survey work as needed and draft nominations should be prepared for them. This is a picture of Newtown.</p>
82	<p>Fourth, Multiple Property Documents (MPD)—these are a less commonly used preservation tool. Unlike a National Register nomination, it does not actual pursue designation. However it is a tool to research and document a class of similar resources and to provide a broad historic and context for them along with more specific data pertaining to each. Once the MPD has been accepted by the National Park</p>



Service it serves as a master reference document allowing for streamlined nominations that reference the MPD.

Fifth—Procure Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation. With National Register listing there are state and federal tax incentives for rehabilitation. Properties must be historic, a threshold spending amount must be met and rehabilitation must meet certain standards. Properties that meet these requirements can get up to 45% of qualified rehabilitation expenses back as a credit against income tax liability.

Sixth—Easements, which are another great preservation tool with financial implications. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will accept easements on National Register properties. An easement is a gift of certain property rights. With the permanent gift of those rights (as determined by the property owners) such as demolition, subdivision, etc a property's value is diminished which can result in lower property tax assessments and a reduced estate tax burden.

Finally, Heritage Tourism. There are so many stories to tell in Wythe County. The baseline data from this survey and additional efforts can be used to develop interpretive markers, driving tours and programs. The mining history of the county and the incredible remaining furnaces are but one obvious asset that can be used to not only attract visitors but to educate the county's children about how and why Wythe County developed and grew.