

Virginia

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FIELD TRIP

The Landmarks Commission was established to survey, record, and assist in the preservation of Virginia's historic places. Field surveys involving the entire staff have been conducted in Northern Virginia, the Lower Valley, Southwest Virginia, and on the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore. Commission field trips, like any survey or research work, presuppose certain talents, the appropriate application of these and luck.

The survey begins in the office with the collection, evaluation and organization of appropriate maps, charts, travel accounts, historical materials, pertinent correspondence, and tour guides. The Commission's two architectural historians concentrate on known structures of exceptional significance. In the field they are especially attentive to the condition and integrity of buildings which may be nominated for inclusion on the Virginia and National Registers of Historic Places.

The criteria for such nominations, briefly stated, are prominent identification with either: (1) the heroic men or events of the Commonwealth's past or (2) the architectural styles of a period of our history. Records have been assembled for more than 100 of the properties visited

during a recent trip to the Northern Neck. While few of these would be generally recognized as "important," each has a contribution to make to the community's historical record.

There is a certain routine to field work, entailing as it does the repetition of basic tasks. But the tasks lead to conversations with people about their homes, and villages, and countryside. There are no "typical" days in such work. The five staff members were as one in remarking on the fine scenery, homes, churches, and other structures of the Northern Neck. The cordiality, courtesy, and charm of the people remind one of the society and culture of an earlier day in Virginia.

During the first week of May, the staff visited Northern Virginia Architectural historians Calder Loth and Tucker Hill, with the collaboration of planning consultant Russell Wright, conducted a survey of Historic Warrenton at the request of the Town Planning Commission. Warrenton has an unusually large number of structures of architectural and historic significance. The initial study shows at least 205 such buildings. The extraordinary interest of the citizens in their historic patrimony

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as fine and unique as the setting, approaches, and architecture of the town itself.

Field trips serve to introduce the staff to the several areas of the State and to their people. The physical survey is continued through the combined efforts of interested local residents and one or more of the staff members.

Since being founded four years ago, the Commission has relied heavily on aid from many persons dedicated to the welfare of the Old Dominion and to its history and antiquities. Among those closest to the staff are the men and women who represent the Commission and its work in their respective areas of the State. These Regional Representatives have met together at the Commission's offices in Richmond. Their contributions will be discussed from time to time in Notes on Virginia.

NEW KENT SURVEY

Edward Chappell, a senior at William and Mary, has devoted the past two summers to the study of New Kent and James City Counties. Last summer Mr. Chappell concentrated his attention on New Kent, attempting to locate and record all available structures and archaeological sites within this limited area. If the county's potential was not exhausted, significant discoveries were made. The number of New Kent sites recorded in Commission files was more than doubled from 40 to over 100 and additional information included in the earlier files.

In addition to photographing buildings, drawing floor plans, collecting and interpreting artifacts and carrying out limited test excavation, the archaeological historian collected copies of records held by area residents. Many old photographs and other private records are unknown outside the family. Often these privately-held materials can supply the historian and architect with valuable information. Mr. Chappell arranged for the copying of photographs of Chestnut Grove, Martha Washington's birthplace, and other buildings which have been destroyed since the old photographs were made.

The survey of New Kent led to the generous gift of eighteenth and early-nineteenth century books to the Earl Gregg Swem Library at William and Mary. These materials, including a student's notes taken from the medical lectures of Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, belonged to the Webbs of Hampstead.

A slide-illustrated talk describing the purposes, methods, and results of the New Kent survey has been given to a number of groups, both for local interest and as an example of how such a survey may be carried out. Edward Chappell has found important archaeological sites, but fewer architectural discoveries during the course of his James City County Survey.

OLD WINE OLD WINE-SKINS

I cannot but remark that the people of our state are strangely negligent of even the most remarkable events in their history. There is no association of traditions handed down by our forefathers, with the places where the events happened; but everything of this kind is passing rapidly into oblivion.

Virginia Evangelical & Literary Magazine, VI (1823): 312



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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THE VIRGINIA REGISTER

The General Assembly has directed the Landmarks Commission to prepare a register of historical, architectural, and archaeological sites within the Commonwealth which are of State-wide or national significance. The Commission's staff began considering nominations in the fall of 1968; by the end of June 1970, 213 properties had been approved for addition to the Virginia Register.

Nominations are reviewed by a committee composed of professionally recognized persons from the fields of history, architecture, environmental planning, and archaeology. After review and endorsement by this committee, the nominations are presented to the Commission for its approval. All Virginia landmarks are nominated in turn to the National Register of Historic Places.

Brief statements on each of the first 213 register properties may be found in the installment of the Virginia Landmarks Register published during the summer of 1970. An enumeration of the 52 additions made to the Register between July 1970 and May 1971 appeared in the first issue of Notes on Virginia. There are presently 278 historic landmarks included on the Virginia Register. Notice of the more recent additions are included below and on page 8 of this issue of Notes.

MAYMONT-RICHMOND: The three story sandstone mansion, built in 1890 by Major James H. Dooley, illustrates the grandeur and lavishness of the Edwardian era. The house with its extensive gardens was willed to the city as a public park.

WILLIAMS-BROWN HOUSE, SALEM: Built around 1837, this building is an architecturally sophisticated survival of the double-porch fronted commercial building once prevalent in the towns along the Valley Pike.

THE TULEYRIES, CLARKE CO.: Founded around 1833 by Col. Joseph Tuley, Jr., this Shenandoah Valley estate includes formal gardens and a park in addition to pastures and woodlands. The late-Federal mansion and early farm buildings are architecturally significant.

WELBOURNE, LOUDOUN CO.: Welbourne includes an imposing mansion and numerous early farm and out-buildings. Having evolved from a late-eighteenth century stone farm house, the main house bears the architectural stamp of five generations of family members.

HANOVER COUNTY COURT HOUSE PRESERVATION ZONE: The well-preserved and proportioned seat of Hanover County retains all the essential elements and atmosphere of the classic, historically-distinctive rural-Virginian administrative community. The famous court house, a major monument of colonial Virginia's public architecture, and court-house green form the historic as well as the visual focal point of the community. The venerable, rambling-frame Hanover Tavern across the road from the court complex completes the traditional court house community.

THE GLEBE, ARLINGTON CO.: Built on the site of the original Fairfax Parish Glebe, this early-nineteenth century brick cottage has been added to twice. The two-story octagonal wing was built in the 1850's by Clark Mills, the American sculptor.

BERKELEY, CHARLES CITY CO.: The home of the Harrisons during Colonial Virginia's Golden Age, this successor to the early-seventeenth century Berkeley Hundred is one of Virginia's most historic plantations. The house was built in 1726 by Benjamin Harrison; it was the home of a later Benjamin Harrison who served as Governor of Virginia and signed the Declaration of Independence.

CUSTIS-LEE MANSION, ARLINGTON CO.: This outstanding Greek Revival structure, originally known as Arlington House, dominates the view across the Potomac from Washington. The mansion was built by George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted son of George Washington and Father-in-law to Robert E. Lee. In 1864, the United States Government appropriated the estate and established the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Assistant Director and architectural historian Calder Loth have worked with Richmond attorney Michael W. Maupin in processing the open-space easement on Brooke's Bank, Essex County.

The Editor of *Notes* and the VHLC Assistant Director attended the Statewide Forum of the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission at the Hotel John Marshall on September 17th. Various aspects of the Bicentennial celebration in Virginia were discussed in the working sessions. Governor Holton addressed the delegates during the luncheon recess.

Many of Virginia's historical societies and history-oriented organizations were represented at the annual meeting of the Virginia History Federation held in Richmond following the Bicentennial Forum. Mr. Pudner represented the VHLC.

Architectural historian Loth visited the Eastern Shore in mid-August for the purpose of inspecting repairs at Kerr Place, Onancock and to survey Wharton Place and Corbin Hall which are under consideration for inclusion on the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Over the past several weeks, Mr. Loth has inspected a potential preservation zone in Staunton and sites in Gloucester and Goochland Counties. The area in the vicinity of the Staunton railroad station includes an ante-bellum building, formerly a hotel, and a number of late-19th-century warehouses and commercial buildings.

VIRGINIA LANDMARKS SURVEY SUMMER PROGRAMS

University of Virginia architectural students under the direction of Professor James A. DeCoy have participated in the VHLC's summer measured-drawing project. Over 70 sheets of measured drawings are being completed for the twelve buildings studied. Subjects include two unique structures on the Eastern Shore, Wessels Root Cellar and Pear Valley. The former is unusual for having been built to serve solely as a root cellar. The workmanship and materials are far more

sophisticated than was common in colonial out-buildings of such secondary functional importance.

Pear Valley is a rare survival: a yeoman's cottage of the 17th century. Its single room features a massive pyramidal brick chimney and medieval-type frame construction. The measured drawings, including structural and decorative features and elevations, together with accompanying photographs will be available to students of architecture and history. Architectural historian Tucker H. Hill serves as liaison with the survey.

The Richmond survey was accelerated during the summer thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth Cheek. Miss Cheek's most significant contribution was the preparation of materials necessary for the submission of nominations to the Virginia and National Landmarks Registers. An art history major, Miss Cheek has entered the graduate program in American Culture at the Winterthur Museum.

Richmonder Mary Goodall devoted her summer to organizing and cataloguing the 20,000+ items in the VHLC's collection of photo-copied Mutual Assurance Society policies. These policies, issued from 1794 and following, represent a significant collection of Virginia architectural records. Miss Goodall, an undergraduate history major at the University, came to the VHLC under the Virginia College Summer Work Study Program.



CLERK'S OFFICE

VHLC Executive Director James W. Moody, Jr. was the principal speaker at the dedication of the historic Pittsylvania County clerk's office at Callands. The building served as the Debtor's Prison (1767-1774), and later as the Clerk's Office. Observing that there would not be any history if it were not for Women, Mr. Moody praised the Chatham Garden Club for its efforts in preserving the early clerk's office.

VHLC Chairman Edward P. Alexander has accepted a position with the University of Delaware as Director of Museum Studies. In addition to his administrative functions, Dr. Alexander will lecture and counsel students in the fields of museum management and the history and philosophy of the museum. The University offers advanced-degree programs in American history and culture in cooperation with the Winterthur Museum and the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation.

Dr. Alexander's experience and talent in the several fields of local history, preservation, and the museum, have been at the service of the Commonwealth for the past quarter century. He has served as chairman of the Landmarks Commission since it was first formed in 1966. Dr. Alexander will assume his new duties early next year upon retiring as Vice President and Director of Interpretation for Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Alexander, with the unanimous approval of the Commission's membership, Governor Holton has appointed VHLC Executive Director James W. Moody, Jr. to be State Liaison Officer in Dr. Alexander's stead. Former Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. appointed

the VHLC to represent the Commonwealth in state-federal preservation activities with Chairman Alexander to serve as Liaison Officer under provisions of Public Law 89-665 of the U. S. Code.

Directors Moody of the VHLC and Elbert Cox of the Commission of Outdoor Recreation, together with Col. Howard A. MacCord, viewed the Brunswick County site of Fort Christiana during mid-August. The fort has a significant place in the history of the Virginia Indians and of Governor Spotswood's administration. It was the most remote settlement in Southside when built in 1714.

Mr. Moody, long an active member of the American Association for State and Local History was elected to the Association's Council at its recent meeting in Portland. He also serves as Southeastern Regional chairman on the Association's national awards committee.

Mr. Moody and VHLC Assistant Director J. R. Fishburne have met with Francis Duke and Miss Virginia Moore of Albemarle Co. to discuss the development of a preservation program for the county.

OPEN-SPACE EASEMENTS

The owners of two newly recognized landmarks, Brooke's Bank in Essex Co. and Lowland Cottage in Gloucester Co., are protecting the historic and scenic integrity of their property by giving the Commonwealth an Open-Space Easement. Authorized by the Virginia Open Space Land Act of 1966, the easement is designed to insulate the owner of a historic property from undue pressures to subdivide or commercially develop his land.

An Open-Space Easement is a guaranty that privately-owned lands will be developed only in keeping with their historic or scenic character. The rights and usages of private ownership are retained by the Grantor, his heirs, successors and assigns, subject to the restrictions stipulated by the easement. All persons concerned with open-space conservation and environmental protection should

be grateful to the owners of Brooke's Bank and Lowland Cottage for the Deeds of Easement which they have given to the Commonwealth through the Historic Landmark Commission.

AND OLD MANSION

The VHLC accepted its first Open-Space Easement in February of 1969, when the owners of Old Mansion granted an easement on 123 acres surrounding their home at Bowling Green. The owners, themselves descendants of the original 17th-century owner, have undertaken extensive exterior restoration and interior renovation of their Caroline County home. Architectural historian Tucker H. Hill has been assisting the Messrs. Frederic Cox and Roger Pitts of Marcellus Wright and Partners who are supervising the work.



Our National pavilion at Canada's Expo-67, built on the theme of American ingenuity and resourcefulness, was an impressive reminder of pioneer America's practical artistry. The Pioneer America Society (626 S. Washington St., Falls Church, Va. 22046) was founded in 1967 to record evidences of the genius of this people in adapting their habits and technology to the varying demands of forest and prairie, mountain and plain, as they crossed three centuries and a continent in the building of a nation.

The breadth of interest of the Society's membership is suggested by the illustrated articles appearing in the semi-annual journal *Pioneer America*. The sod houses which necessity invented on the Great Plain, as well as the intricate corner-umbering of the more familiar log-cabin, the Victorian railroad station and single-laned iron bridge — often as artistic as they were functional; the turnpike tavern, the pre-canal watercraft of the James River water gap region, and the double crib barn peculiar to south central Pennsylvania — each intimately identified with the social order of some portion of pioneer America; these are among the industries, structures, and even the tools, which have been discussed in the pages of the Society's publications.

The Society concerns itself with the everyday life of Americans, prior to the automobile age, with everyman's heroism rather than the extraordinary accomplishment of the few. There is a reminder here of the cultural transformation wrought by the internal-combustion engine and the highway. The automobile put America on speedy wheels, broke down the entire concept of village living, of close family ties, scattered families from coast to coast, brought the consolidated school into being —

in other words, altered the pattern of living, and left remnants of our former way of life in the places of their creation."

The Pioneer America Society has entered the lists against the "bulldozementality" in seeking to preserve evidences of the struggles and successes of the past. The society comes up against an equally formidable opponent in its further effort, to assist "the youngsters of the present and the future to appreciate the best of our past and to carry those pioneer qualities of self-reliance and responsibility with them into the future." It is part of the cant of the 20th century that the experience of one generation has little relevance to the lives of the next; nevertheless, "the ingenuity of Americans in the past three hundred years, in situations that required ingenuity and resourcefulness, should not be lost sight of."

SCHOOL HOUSE CONTINUED

smith or burgess "was by apprenticeship. The younger Virginian, as apprentice, also learned about human nature, observing the temperments and characters, the strengths and weaknesses of his fellows, and superior. The Virginian learned by participating in the everyday experiences of life. With a naturall acuteness would amuse thee, John Clayton wrote from Jamestown in 1684, "for want of bookes they read men the more."

Each generation of Virginians did initiate its young into the inherited culture, into an inheritance which was continually developing in accordance with circumstances of time and place. Indeed, the plantation system itself, representing successive adaptations to a strange new environment, and resulting ultimately in a new social-economic order, was a major educational achievement. The "prudish" among us, in contemplating the school-house that wasn't there, have missed the education that was.

The editor of *Notes on Virginia* considers this theme in "People Not Pedagogy: Education in Old Virginia" in the *Georgia Review* XXV (Fall 1971): 263-285.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE THAT WASN'T THERE

The historical past is puckish in responding to the 20th-century questions which historians may ask of it. Landmarks of certain aspects of the social history of the Old Dominion may be overlooked because their colonial or ante-bellum functions are not self-evident to the modern mind. For instance, while there were no exceptional hotels or inns in early Virginia, there was, as Robert Beverley stated the matter, "the most Good-nature, and Hospitality practis'd in the World, both towards Friends and Strangers."

History records no fine restaurants in colonial or ante-bellum Virginia, and yet, the country was renowned for its toothsome cuisine. "No judgment can be formed of the meats of the country from the publick markets," a New Englander wrote from Southside, "for the best are commonly consumed at home." Perceptive contemporaries understood the relative importance of private against public accommodations better than those "prudish intellectuals" whom Francis Butler Simkins found to be "too unimaginative to understand a traditional civilization like that of Virginia."

Professor Simkins wrote of Virginia through the early-20th century as a society in which religion, family, kinship, and custom supply needs in which a more thoroughly educated society must be supplied by artificial devices such as the government and the school. So it can be said that Nomini Hall and the single-roomed Pear Valley Hanover and Lunenburg Court House, Saint Peter's, New Kent and Hebron Lutheran Church, Burwell Mill and the Old Capitol are properly included with the academies and old-field schools among the landmarks to education in old Virginia.

The quality of formal instruction in colonial and early-19th century Virginia was uncertain; schools were often impermanent, teachers itinerant, and student attendance irregular. On the basis of such information, educational historians have concluded that "the schools that were operated were inadequate in meeting the educational needs of the

population." Unfortunately, their studies deal almost exclusively with formal instruction as if "schooling" were synonymous with "education."

If formal schooling were a necessary prerequisite to knowledge and wisdom, America's greatest generation of political leaders would not have appeared in late-18th century Virginia. Neither Washington, Henry, Pendleton, nor many of their fellows enjoyed much formal instruction; they were products of an older order in Virginia education.

In Gentlemen Freeholders, Charles S. Sydnor describes the apprenticeship-in-public life which was the "Pathway to Power" for Virginia's great leaders. An extended extra-mural education in man and nature preceded service in the higher offices at Williamsburg. These lessons, begun at home, were continued through service on the county court. In eighteenth-century Virginia men learned to administer law and observed the effects of law (on young and old, man and woman, white and black, free and slave) before they were entrusted with its making.

An Englishman wrote, on the basis of considerable experience of life in the Chesapeake country, that "the natives of these provinces, even those who move in the humbler circles of life, discover a shrewdness and penetration not generally observable in the mother country." They discriminate characters with the greatest accuracy, and there are few who do not seem perfectly conversant with the general, and particular interests of the country.

European and Northern sojourners may not have understood the process of education in colonial or ante-bellum Virginia, but they had to admit that the Virginians on all occasions show clear and penetrating powers of mind. Indeed, they found the most numerous class of Virginians to be "possessed of a natural genius, which, though in a great measure unimproved, is generally bright and splendid in an uncommon degree."

The Virginian learned by observing. Vocational training, whether as planter or lawyer, black-

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 22219
NINTH STREET STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 1118
COMMISSION
RGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS



VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

JAMES RIVER & KANAWHA CANAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: FROM SHIP LOCKS TO BOSHER'S DAM: RICHMOND & HENRICO: This linear-historic district consists of the earthen excavations, stone locks, and other related objects which once formed a portion of the greatest pre-railroad improvement in Virginia. A boat moved from the lower to the upper James River by means of the "Tidewater Connection"; it could then travel from Richmond to Buchanan beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, passing through ninety canal locks with a total lift of 728 feet.

FANCY FARM, BEDFORD CO.: The setting of this fine late-Georgian house affords a panoramic view of the Peaks of Otter. The original interior woodwork is particularly noteworthy.

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HIS-

TORICAL PARK: The drama played in the twilight ended here on Palm Sunday of 1865. After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia was surrendered at the previously obscure village of Appomattox Court House.

LINDEN ROW, RICHMOND: This series of eight houses contributes a sense of elegance to what is now a commercial neighborhood. The only surviving example of Franklin Street's ante-bellum terrace row houses, Linden Row has been preserved through adaptive re-use as offices and apartments.

WOODLAWN, GOOCHLAND CO.: This imposing late-eighteenth century house, a familiar landmark to generations of travellers along the old Three Chopt Highway (U. S. 250) is a distinguished example of rural Federalist architecture.