



PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

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Virginia Naturally— Historic Resources *A Message from the Secretary of Natural Resources*

Stewardship is a responsibility that Governor Gilmore and I take very seriously. As Virginians we have a responsibility to preserve and care for some of our nation's most significant historical treasures. These treasures enrich our lives and provide a unique sense of pride about our Commonwealth.

The historic preservation community has worked hard to help citizens understand and care for Virginia's natural and historic resources. I would like to share with you some ideas for lifelong learning and an opportunity that you or your organization can utilize to advance education about conservation and stewardship.

In this year's State of the Commonwealth Address, Governor Gilmore outlined his highest priorities for the Commonwealth. They included the Governor's budget proposal to protect endangered Civil War Battlefield sites through the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

The Governor's address also announced Virginia Naturally 2000. Together with Secretaries Allen, Bryant, and DuVal, Governor Gilmore and I want this to be our unifying theme

for our natural resources stewardship and conservation efforts in the year 2000 and beyond. We

want to make it easy for every Virginian, young or adult, throughout his or her life, to learn about our resources and the environment, and translate concern into positive action. In this way people acting on their own can make wise choices for their families and communities. Education is key to successful stewardship and conservation efforts. It aids youth and adults to make informed decisions and can teach individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking.

This comprehensive initiative will establish a coordinated system of environmental education that fully integrates technology and scientific analysis into the fabric of formal and non-formal learning.

We want all Virginians to easily access information and participate in programs about Virginia's environment and resources—whether they seek information about the air quality in their county, want to learn about a historic site, identify a fossil, learn to fish, or plant a tree in their yard.



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Preservation Alliance Conference Held in Portsmouth

The Preservation Alliance of Virginia's (PAV) 2000 conference drew more than 225 preservationists to Portsmouth April 14–15. "Putting Preservation to Work" focused on pragmatic preservation issues and how they fit into larger economic and planning programs. Sessions ranged from heritage tourism and architectural review boards to easements, the Section 106 process, preservation tax credits, and rural land use. In each session, presenters focused their remarks on case studies and concrete applications.

The opening day's plenary session was held at the beautifully restored art deco Commodore Theater. After a slide presentation of images from an upcoming publication on Portsmouth's Olde Towne Historic District, Mayor Joseph P. Riley of Charleston, South Carolina, addressed the conference. Drawing on 25 years of experience in a city that is almost synonymous with preservation, Riley gave an inspirational slide lecture. He highlighted several Charleston projects, notably the new riverfront ballpark, waterfront park development, parking garages, large-scale mixed-use developments, beautification projects, and several affordable housing projects, including new infill construction and rehabilitations. The projects were truly the result of a mindset and a vision that demanded that the physical development of the city respect its history and that construction projects be held to a high standard, particularly in terms of aesthetics, often down to extremely fine details.

Alex Wise, director of the Department of Historic Resources, expanded on Riley's comments at the PAV annual meeting at breakfast on Saturday. Wise remarked that the successes in Charleston were not a testament to the will of Riley, but were more a result of his tireless and prolonged campaign of education and public awareness. While we in Virginia may lack Riley's charisma, Wise noted, we can all work to actively promote civic values and quality-of-life issues and thus begin to create in our communities the same ethos found in Charleston.

In addition to the educational sessions and speakers, conference participants attended the PAV preservation awards luncheon, a cocktail cruise along the Elizabeth River on the *Carrie B*, and several Saturday afternoon



Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Charleston, S.C., speaks at the opening session.

tours, including a visit to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Drydock #1. Members of the statewide Community Awareness Campaign spent Saturday afternoon in a special prolonged session, supported in part by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, discussing comprehensive planning in Virginia and examining options and a case study for the integration of preservation and cultural resource management into local comprehensive plans.

— *Mary Ruffin Hanbury*

"Virginia Naturally" continued from page 1

This initiative—Virginia Naturally 2000—will provide a continuum of learning to help all Virginians to make the best use of our natural and historic resources for sustained growth and prosperity.

If we do not succeed in our education mission, we can not succeed in protecting Virginia's resources for the long term. I would like to employ the leadership and knowledge of the historic preservation community in this important mission. Obviously, we have a lot of work to do. But together we can get the job done.

I would like to solicit your ideas to determine ways that we can work together in this initiative. If you are interested in participating in Virginia Naturally 2000, please call 1-800-592-5482, e-mail: VaNaturally@deq.state.va.us, or log on to www.VaNaturally.com. I look forward to hearing about your ideas.

— *Secretary of Natural Resources John Paul Woodley, Jr.*

Director's Notes

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that the department serves as convener of the Virginia Cultural Network, which consists of 18 statewide organizations dedicated to cultural collaboration. The network recently submitted a work plan to the 2007 Steering Committee setting forth a menu of 75 projects that can serve as the basis for the statewide celebration of Virginia's 400th anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown.

One of first of these is the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, scheduled for 2003–2005. This celebration will draw international travelers to re-trace the steps of two early explorers who opened the West to this country's early settlers. A truly collaborative effort of more than a dozen organizations, the bicentennial will engage the energy and resources of staffs at DHR, the Library of Virginia, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation, to name a few. The Smithsonian, National Geographic, the National Archives, and the American Philosophical Society are among the national partners. Stay tuned for developments.

The Community Awareness Campaign (see p. 6) continues to make an impact in a statewide effort to put Virginia's history to work in every locality in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Main Street Program and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities have joined the campaign, moving us two steps forward in a campaign of education and public awareness.

Reflecting a very real benefit of preservation, applications to the Commonwealth's tax credit program continue to climb. On page 5, you will see that Virginia ranks #2 in the nation for applications to the federal program. Another good note: as a result of the last session of the General Assembly, effective January 1, 2001, the threshold to qualify for the state's 25 percent tax credit has been reduced from 50 percent of the improvement cost of the assessed value of a property to 25 percent.

In conclusion, the General Assembly voted to increase DHR's base budget by about \$600,000—about 20 percent—in each year of the biennium. The money will be used mostly to strengthen the physical staffing and technological infrastructure necessary to support DHR programs and activities, thus putting us in a stronger position to do business in the next biennium.

— *Alex Wise*

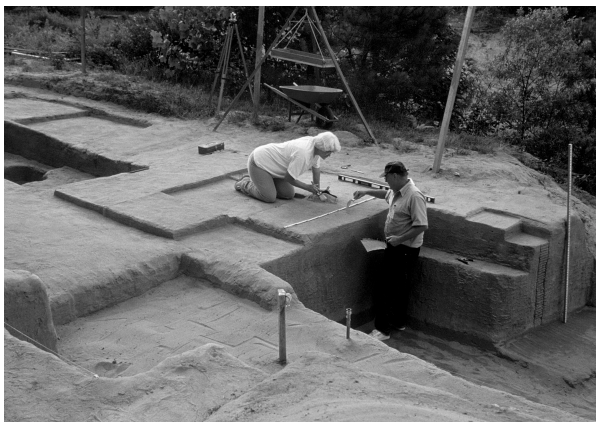


Photo by Kenneth Garrett ©2000 National Geographic Society.
Principal investigator Joseph M. McAvoy and his wife, Lynn McAvoy, a Nottoway River Survey Team member, work at Cactus Hill, a Paleoindian site that has been found to pre-date Clovis, New Mexico.

Threatened Sites: Modest Investment Yields Big Results

Findings at the Cactus Hill archaeological site, Sussex County, provide evidence that people came to the Americas far earlier than previously believed. These discoveries are challenging prevailing theories about early settlement and bringing international attention to Cactus Hill where excavations began in 1993. Both excavations and subsequent analysis of recovered data have been assisted through initial, crucial funding from the department's Threatened Sites Program. Since 1985, the Threatened Sites Program has saved endangered archaeological remnants at 75 sites across the state. Along with Cactus Hill, the Williamson Site, Jordan's Point, shipwrecks, villages, and mortuary sites are among those providing exciting and startling clues to our past.

See "Cactus Hill" on page 4

Slate or Slate Substitute?

What's in a roof? Aside from being the most important component (along with the foundation) of a structure, a roof keeps the interior dry, warm, and habitable—take away the roof and the building fails. It is also a significant character-defining element. The roof, along with windows, doors, and façade, all contribute to a building's architectural significance. What do you do when your historic roof reaches the end of its material life?



Owners of this Winchester home are replacing the slate roof a few pieces at a time over a number of years.

Today, historic homeowners are being sold on new roofing materials of slate- or wood-like appearance that come with a lifetime warranty. Many manufacturers claim that these are maintenance-free alternatives to the original slate that cover many of Virginia's historic homes.

We found that several manmade substitutes mimic the profile and depth of slate. They are made from recycled tires, enamel on a composite material, or steel stamped to mimic the appearance of slate, tile, or wooden roofs. But they also have their shortcomings and will fade, delaminate, curl, or peel. These alternative slates are often just as expensive to buy and, though easier to install than high-quality slate, have a limited life span (24 years). The problem with composition shingles and other substitutes is that they rob or whittle away at the historic quality of a home or neighborhood. Real slate is still your best dollar value in terms of longevity and appearance.

A less expensive alternative to the high cost of total replacement of a slate and wooden roof is the replacement of pieces and components as they fail. It might take 25 years to piecemeal new slates or shingles. The bonus is that you get over the fear of heights and are afforded the opportunity to inspect your roof on an annual or semi-annual basis for cleaning and other repairs.

There is help for the homeowner with roof trouble whose property is listed in the state or national registers, or whose property has been determined eligible for listing in the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register. You can take advantage of the Commonwealth's generous investment tax credits to offset the cost of the rehabilitation work.

Questions? Do not hesitate to contact your regional DHR office, or if you have web access, go to www2.cr.nps.gov and find *Preservation Briefs 4, 16, 18, 29, and 30* for more information on the preservation of historic roofs.

— *Scott Brooks-Miller*

"Cactus Hill" continued from page 3

The clues at Cactus Hill—spear tips and blade tools as well as radiocarbon dates from the remains of ancient cooking fires—date to pre-Clovis Paleoindian times, making the site one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. “We think people went to Cactus Hill, on and off, beginning at least 15,000 years ago,” said archaeologist Joseph M. McAvoy, of Nottoway River Survey, who directs a research team at the site. An additional Cactus Hill research team is headed by Mike Johnson of the Archeological Society of Virginia. Research was made possible at Cactus Hill only because the owners of the land, International Paper Corporation, practiced good stewardship once the site was discovered.

This spring, following a press release from the National Geographic Society, an important sponsor of the project, articles in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Science*, *Science News*, *U. S. News and World Report*, and *Time* brought the significant findings to the public. DHR staff archaeologists David Hazzard and Randolph Turner also were participants in the well-publicized session on the Cactus Hill site held at the Society for American Archaeology's annual meeting this April in Philadelphia.

— *Katherine Harding*



Capital region staff members look out from new headquarters in the Farmer's Bank Building, Petersburg.

Capital Region Office Moves

DHR's Capital Region Preservation Office moved to the upper floors of the Farmer's Bank Building at 19 B Bollingbrook Street in Petersburg. The move represents an expanded partnership with the city of Petersburg and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA).

The Farmer's Bank Building, a notable Petersburg architectural and registered historic landmark, is owned by the Ft. Henry Branch of the APVA. In the 1970s, the Ft. Henry Branch carefully restored and furnished the original banking hall as a banking museum. It rented the upper floors to tenants for a source of income for the APVA's restoration work. During the last 20 years, the city of Petersburg's Tourism Division, in cooperation with the APVA, has staffed and interpreted the banking museum complex, including the bank building, a reconstructed kitchen, a garden, and outbuildings.

The new partnership involves sharing the costs and operations of the Farmer's Bank Building. The move to the Farmer's Bank Building will accommodate recent growth in the department's regional archaeology, state grants, and other technical assistance programs, while providing improved meeting and office space to enhance services to the full range of DHR's clientele. DHR will cooperate with the APVA and the city to better interpret, preserve, and promote the site for tourism. The Capital region's former Petersburg office at 10 Courthouse

Avenue will now house the department's Administrative Division.

According to DHR Director Alex Wise, the new partnership advances the community goals of all three partners. "It will serve to make the entire Farmer's Bank Building more accessible to the public. It will provide an appropriate new use for one of Virginia's outstanding architectural gems and will enhance visitors' experience of historic Petersburg. It will further the revitalization of Petersburg's downtown. And it will enable DHR to better carry out its regional mission to the communities of Central and Southside Virginia."

The Farmer's Bank of Virginia, chartered in 1812, opened its Petersburg branch that same year. The bank completed the present three-story Federal structure in 1817 to replace the earlier office destroyed by the great Petersburg fire of 1815. As was customary, well-appointed living quarters were provided on the upper floors for the bank's executive officer. The upper rooms preserve their intricately decorated mantels and doorways, features typical of Petersburg's finer Federal structures. The interpreted banking area on the first floor retains its original vault. The branch continued in operation through the Civil War, but was forced to liquidate its assets in 1866 by an act of the General Assembly that affected all state banks. The building then passed through numerous owners and served various functions until 1966, when it was conveyed to the APVA.

—Bob Carter

Did You Know?

In 1999, Virginia ranked among the top states in the nation for its increasing investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Out of all 50 states, Virginia ranked second in the number of approved rehabilitation projects, with a total of 66. For the number of completed rehabilitations, Virginia ranked sixth, with a total of 26. In 1999, Virginians received more than \$18 million in tax credits for certified expenses in historic rehabilitation, placing Virginia at 18th in the country. These figures do not include Virginia rehabilitation projects that only applied for state tax credits.

Toolbox Update

Note: The Community Awareness Campaign (CAC) is a statewide grassroots push to put Virginia's history to work in every locality in the state. CAC leaders promote the economic and community benefits of historic preservation in their communities.

More than 50 toolbox campaign volunteers gathered in Portsmouth for the Preservation Alliance of Virginia's annual conference in April. The conference included a special workshop for community advocates entitled "Putting Historic Resources to Work in Your Community's Comprehensive Plan." At the session, Bill Cashman, Landmark Design Group, Virginia Beach, offered a basic introduction to the local planning process and the tools of its implementation. Wendy Price, Mary Washington College, stressed the legal and political advantages of adopting a community preservation plan and outlined key elements for inclusion. Jim Eddins, Albemarle County toolbox leader, gave practical advice on starting a local preservation plan and conducting the necessary research. Drawing on his experience as chairman of the Albemarle County Historic Preservation Task Force, Eddins underscored the importance of managing the agenda, staying focused on goals and priorities, keeping public officials and citizens in the loop, balancing regulatory mechanisms with incentives, and reaching beyond the choir of supporters and opponents. A similar workshop in the western part of the state will be conducted at no charge for toolbox volunteers and community advocates on June 23, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., at the Wytheville Town Council Chambers, Wytheville. Joining Price and Eddins at the podium will be Mike Chandler of Virginia Tech's Institute for Certified Planning Commissioners. For information on the workshop, call John Kern at (540) 857-7585. ¶ The Hanover County toolbox committee partnered with students in the Mary Washington College historic preservation program, under the supervision of Professor John Pierce, to create a traveling exhibit on the history of Hanover County. Entitled "Hanover County: Window to the Past, Vision for the Future," the exhibition contains movable panels of copies of maps, drawings, documents, and photographs on a variety of subjects, along with interpretive labels and texts. It officially opened to the public at the Montpelier Center for the Arts and Education on April 15. More than 50 people attended the unveiling, including Delegate

Frank Hargrove, Senator and Mrs. William Bolling, and Oriana Hargrove, who cut the ribbon to open the exhibit. The unveiling was sponsored by 10 of Hanover's major historical organizations. ¶ The Virginia Main Street Program and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities have joined the toolbox campaign. The Main Street program managers received training and toolboxes in Richmond in February. Directors of APVA branch organizations from across the state attended a special toolbox workshop at the annual meeting of the APVA's Presidents Council in April. DHR Director Alex Wise led training at both meetings and urged the new toolbox recipients to become active on local toolbox committees. DHR's regional offices are working to put toolboxes into the hands of the 21 planning district commissions and the 24 Certified Local Governments in Virginia.

— Bob Carter

New DHR Staff

Scott Arnold

Scott Arnold joined the department in December as the manager of the Virginia Historical Highway Marker



program. As manager, he researches, writes, and edits the texts of roadside historic markers for approval by the Board of Historic Resources.

He also communicates with the public and state agencies about the marker program. Before coming to the Department of Historic Resources, he worked for six years in the banking industry, rising to the position of operations manager at First Union. He also volunteered in the publications department of the Virginia Historical Society, where he wrote contributory articles. Arnold holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history from Emory & Henry College and a master of history degree from the University of Richmond.

Calendar of Events



Venita Gee

Venita Gee joined the department's Program Services Division as a fiscal technician senior in September 1999. In this capacity, she provides support in managing and implementing the agency's account-

ing structure. She processes invoices, petty cash, and travel reimbursements; reconciles financial statements; and provides technical assistance to staff regarding fiscal regulations and guidelines.

A business administration graduate of Virginia State University, Gee's professional experience includes having served as a fiscal assistant, an assistant box office manager, and a bookkeeper/accountant.

June

7 Statewide Plan Public Meeting (Winchester). The Winchester Regional Office Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting to discuss the draft of the statewide plan for historic preservation. All are welcome. Location: Manassas Museum, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Contact: David Edwards at (540) 722-3428 or dedwards@dhr.state.va.us.

14 Joint Board Meeting (Petersburg). Quarterly meeting to consider nomination of historic properties to the national and state registers. Open to the public. Location: Appomattox Regional Governor's School, 10 a.m. Contact: Bob Carter, (804) 863-1626 or bcarter@dhr.state.va.us.

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

23 "Putting Historic Resources to Work in Your Community's Comprehensive Plan" Seminar (Wytheville). A presentation of the special session at the PAV conference will be offered in western Virginia. Speakers Wendy Price, Mary Washington College, Jim Eddins, toolbox leader, and Mike Chandler, Virginia Tech, will present essentials for comprehensive plans. Location: Wytheville Town Council Chambers, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Contact: John Kern at (540) 857-7585 or jkern@dhr.state.va.us.

September

16 Certified Local Government Training Session (Leesburg). Training session for staff and review board members of Certified Local Governments. Speakers Wendy Price, Mary Washington College, and Audrey Tepper, National Park Service, will talk about local ordinances and preservation law and the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, respectively. Location: Leesburg City Hall, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Free. Contact: Scott Brooks-Miller at (540) 722-3442 or sbrooksmiller@dhr.state.va.us.

Call for Address Updates

Have you moved? Is the information on your address label current? Let us know of changes by filling out the form below and mailing it to: Katherine Harding, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221.

Name: _____

Code on address label (1234M): _____

Old address: _____

New address: _____

Virginia Preservation Needs You!

The department needs your input in composing the comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan. During the summer, department staff will create the preservation plan for 2000: *Putting Virginia's History to Work*. A revision and update of the preservation plan written in 1997, *Putting Virginia's History to Work* will incorporate comments from the public and many groups around Virginia, such as the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, the Virginia Commission on Archaeology, and local governments. To provide your input, please fill out the brief questionnaire on our web site at www.dhr.state.va.us. Copies are also available upon request at all of the regional offices.

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Visit DHR on the web at www.dhr.state.va.us

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