

VIRGINIA PRESERVATION UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF VIRGINIA

DEC 1995, VOLUME 8, NO. 5

RECENT STUDIES POINT TO PRESERVATION'S POSITIVE IMPACT ON VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES

Two recent studies of the Preservation Alliance point to the important impact of preservation in the Commonwealth. In late August the Alliance released *Historic Preservation and the Understanding of Virginia's Communities* which examines the roles preservation organizations play in shaping community values and development. The second work, *Virginia's Economy and Historic Preservation*, lays out the economic impact of preservation in terms of job creation, tourism, downtown revitalization, and property values. Released at a statewide press conference in October, this report generated an enthusiastic response from preservationists and great interest from individuals involved in tourism, local government, and development.

Copies of the economic study are available for \$7.50 (shipping and handling included), while the *Communities* report can be purchased for \$6.45. The material from this work has also been developed into a slide show for use at the local level. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, please call David Brown at the Alliance office (540-886-4362) for fees and availability.

1995 AWARDS PAY TRIBUTE TO PRESERVATIONISTS

Two Richmond residents were honored in November with Distinguished Preservationist Awards from the Preservation Alliance. **Dr. Robert Bluford**, a Presbyterian minister active in efforts to save Richmond's Civil War battlefields, and **Dr. William E. Trout, III**, co-founder of the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society, were among seven individuals, groups, and businesses recognized during the statewide awards ceremony.

"Bob Bluford and Bill Trout have both shown exceptional service to the cause of preservation in Virginia," said Harry J. Warthen, III, president of the Alliance. The Distinguished Preservationist Award is named for **Katherine Glaize Rockwood**, a founding trustee of the Preservation Alliance from Winchester. Mrs. Rockwood passed away in 1991.

Other award winners included:

- **Pam and Ron Stidham** of Bath County, winners of the **Frederick Doveton Nichols Award**, for the restoration of Warwickton, an 1851 house now used as a bed-and-breakfast.

- **The Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association** of Hampton, winners of one of four Virginia Preservation Awards, for its work to promote the heritage of the only New Deal resettlement

community designed and built by and for African-Americans.

- **Busch Properties, Inc.** of Williamsburg, for its corporate support of archaeology at some of the country's most important archaeological sites.

- **The Virginia Tech Real Estate Foundation and the City of Roanoke** for the \$28 million restoration of the Hotel Roanoke.

- **Sally Trumbower** of Clarke County, for her extensive heritage education programs that have reached over 5,000 students.

The Virginia Preservation Awards are underwritten by **Carriage House Realty**, Fredericksburg; **McEneaney Associates**, Alexandria; **Mead Associates**, Lexington; and **Virginia Properties**, Richmond.



Other recently recognized preservationists include Alliance Director **David J. Brown**, winner of the 1995 Preservationist of the Year Award from the **Thomas Jefferson Branch of the APVA**; the **Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest**, winner of the Award for Preservation from the **Virginia Society of the AIA**; and **Hugh C. Miller, FAIA**, winner of the Society's Preservation Award for individuals.

RECEPTION SET FOR FEBRUARY 6TH

The 9th Annual **Virginia Preservation Reception** is scheduled for Tuesday evening, **February 6, 1996** at the **Valentine Museum in Richmond**. Preservationists from around Virginia will again gather to meet with members of the General Assembly. Selected member organizations of the Preservation Alliance will display examples of their work.

Preservation's presence in the General Assembly should grow this year, as members of the Alliance are encouraged to come to Richmond on the day of the 6th for meetings with their representatives. Look for additional information on **Preservation Day** activities.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Save Our Land, Save Our Towns - If you have ever wondered why preservationists should be concerned with the issue of sprawl, then a new book published by Preservation Pennsylvania is for you. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Thomas Hylton's new work, **Save Our Land, Save Our Towns** is a marvelous study about the relationships between town and country, and why preservationists should be concerned about the spread of suburbia. Although produced for Pennsylvania, the work has many practical applications that carry over in Virginia. It is available for \$24.95 by calling 1-800-497-1427. **Recommended!**

Washington State Rejects "Property Rights" Measure - By a 3-to-2 margin, voters in Washington state recently rejected what would have been the country's most stringent private property rights law. According to the **Washington Post**, the law would have required that property owners be compensated for any loss of value related to state and local governmental land-use regulation. This defeat comes one year after the defeat at the polls of similar legislation in Arizona. It is expected that so-called property rights bills will be considered in the 1996 Virginia General Assembly.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

The City of Newport News recently purchased *Endview*, a house intertwined with early American military history. The house will soon become a major component of the *War Memorial Museum's* planned Civil War campus interpreting the 1862 Peninsula campaign. For more information contact John Quarstein (804-247-8523).... A recent *Arts and Entertainment TV Network* biography of Patrick Henry is available on videocassette from *Red Hill, the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation*. For information call (804) 376-2044.... California developer Lee Sammis has signed a "letter of intent" to sell over 1,500 acres at Brandy Station to a coalition of preservation organizations led by the *Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Brandy Station Foundation*. The purchase price is likely to be around \$6 million. Alliance Trustee Council member *Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.* has been active in forming a coalition of private benefactors to assist with the purchase. The agreement was announced only two weeks after Sammis' Elkwood Downs corporation foreclosed on their loan note with Benton Ventures, developers of a proposed racetrack for the Brandy Station site. Benton Ventures filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection one day before a scheduled auction of the property, temporarily delaying the finalization of the Sammis/APCWS deal.... As part of ongoing preservation work at *Historic Christ Church*, restoration work is underway at the west (main) doorway and steps. Plans for 1996 call for restoration of the roof beams and attic. The work follows Historic Structures Report recommendations made by architect Nat Neblett.... *The Clarke County Planning Office and the Clarke County History Commission* recently released a beautiful video

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entitled *Clarke County Legacy*. Copies are available for \$10 by calling (540) 955-5132.... Lynchburg's *Diamond Hill Historical Society* recently sold the 1883 *Jordan-Kinckle House* to a new owner who will restore and live in the structure. The Society received the house as a gift. Deed restrictions were placed on the property and a restoration agreement was part of the sale.... *The Virginia Historical Society's* new exhibit, *The Story of Virginia*, opened in October in Richmond. After viewing an introductory video narrated by *Roger Mudd*, visitors can tour the exhibition with electronic gallery guides that enable each person to create his or her own customized tour. For additional information call (804) 358-4901.... Roanoke's *Old Southwest, Inc.* has recently published its first *Neighborhood Guide*, a one-stop look at the resources available for residents in this historic neighborhood. To receive information on the guide, call (540) 343-8794.... In FY 94-95, 32,360 non-local visitors to the *Manassas Museum* contributed an estimated \$857,540 in direct spending and \$5.1 million in indirect spending to the local economy, for a total economic impact of \$6,002,780, proving once again that preservation pays.

DHR OPENS TWO REGIONAL OFFICES

Winchester and Portsmouth are the sites of the *Department of Historic Resources'* most recent regional offices. In Winchester, *Robert Carter* is the director, assisted by *David Edwards* and *Bob Jolley*. They can be reached at 104 North Braddock St., Winchester, VA 22601. Telephone: (540) 722-3427. In Portsmouth, *Dr. E. Randolph Turner, III* directs the office with assistance from *David Hazzard*. The address for the office is: 612 Court Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. Telephone: (804) 396-6709. DHR has maintained a regional office in Roanoke since 1989.

PEOPLE IN PRESERVATION

The *Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation* has appointed *Fraser Neiman* as Director of Archaeology. Neiman comes to Monticello from Yale University.... *Janette Shaw Coleman* has been named the first Executive Director of the *Historic Lexington Foundation*. The appointment is part of the plan for the separation of HLF and the Stonewall Jackson House. *Michael Lynn* will continue her work as Executive Director of the newly established *Stonewall Jackson Foundation*.... *Chris Miller* was recently named President of the *Piedmont Environmental Council*, replacing retiring President *Bob Dennis*. Miller directed PEC's "Take A Second Look" Disney Campaign.... *Tom Jones* has stepped down as Director of the *Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History*.... *Amy R. Masterman*, a recent graduate of the University of Georgia's preservation program, has been named Executive Director of *Historic Staunton Foundation*.... *Scott Glass* has resigned as Executive Director of the *Lynchburg Historical Foundation*. LHF's new Director is *Heidi James*.... *Dr. Benjamin McCary*, a Past President of the *Archeological Society of Virginia*, died on December 4 in Williamsburg.

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Member Organizations of the Alliance are encouraged to make copies of Virginia Preservation Update for distribution to staff and board members.

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