You Keep the Connection Alive
You can provide for the future of Virginia’s historic places.
To give or renew your support, contact Alexis Feria at 804.648.1889, ext. 303 or donate securely online at www.bit.ly/preserveva.
Now more than ever, Preservation Virginia believes that the resources of our past offer vital lessons to present and future generations about all facets of our complex history. Through our programs, projects and advocacy efforts, we will continue to promote engaged discussions that recognize and understand our collective history as Americans.

Elizabeth S. Kostelny
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Patricia Loughridge
PRESIDENT

Cape Henry Lighthouse's 225th Anniversary

In 1720, Virginia Governor, Alexander Spotswood, first proposed building a lighthouse at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay near Cape Henry. Seven decades later on November 17, 1792, the lantern at Cape Henry Lighthouse shone for the first time. At 157 feet tall, it stands as a symbol of resilience having been damaged and repaired during the Civil War and used for nearly 100 years. Although it was decommissioned in the late 19th century, Cape Henry Lighthouse remains one of the oldest, most historic lighthouses standing today.

We hope you will join us in commemorating 225 years of the first federally funded public works project completed in the United States by visiting Cape Henry Lighthouse and learning about its incredible history through Daily Dune Talks, scavenger hunts and tours of the Lighthouse.

You Can Explore the Value of Partnerships at the Virginia Preservation Conference

We’re excited to be co-hosting the Virginia Preservation Conference alongside the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Petersburg, Virginia on Friday, October 6th. Each year, the conference brings together architects, preservationists, government leaders and everyday citizens from across the Commonwealth to explore preservation ideas and initiatives.

This year, we invite you to “Explore the Value of Partnerships” happening between organizations in the private and public sector that strengthen Virginia’s communities. You’ll get to hear from incredible guest speakers about the collaborations and preservation programs that help revitalize and sustain historic places of memory in Virginia.

Register today at bit.ly/2017VPConference.

This conference is made possible thanks to the generous support from our sponsors, including the Virginia Department for Historic Resources, The Cameron Foundation and Davenport & Co. For a full list of our sponsors, please visit www.preservationvirginia.org.

Preservation from Where I Stand

Preservation history requires finding responsible and appropriate solutions. None of us can be satisfied with the status quo. In the 21st century, innovation is a necessity. Every day our staff is on the road working with communities and their leaders across the Commonwealth to form new collaborations and partnerships. We are on the ground helping communities develop solutions to preserve and raise awareness of the places that let us touch the past and connect to our future.

This issue of Historic Ventures focuses on a few of our many endeavors related to the James River, Petersburg, Virginia Beach and the John Marshall House. You will read a developer’s perspective on the historic tax credit program and learn about Bill Kelso’s new book, “Jamestown, the Truth Revealed.” You’ll discover how crowd sourcing technology will help document Virginia’s Rosenwald Schools and read stories shared by our supporters about what draws them to our work and how legacy gifts inspire and make significant investments today. Lastly, we will say farewell to two preservation heroes—Andy Williams and George Freeman.

As we go to print, communities are debating the place of Confederate monuments in public spaces. Violence in Charlottesville and protests in other communities reflect the complexity of these issues. Perspectives differ and are deeply held, but progress can only be made through open discussion.

We believe that inclusive, respectful, transparent and fact-based community dialogues will help shape solutions that meet each community’s needs. No single solution can be applied universally. However, by fostering unflinching examinations and honest narratives of our history, we can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the past and how its legacies still affect us today.

Now more than ever, Preservation Virginia believes that the resources of our past offer vital lessons to present and future generations about all facets of our complex history. Through our programs, projects and advocacy efforts, we will continue to promote engaged discussions that recognize and understand our collective history as Americans.

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Elizabeth S. Kostelny, Louis Malon and Patti Loughridge at Louis’ retirement party at the Cole Digges House.
Rosenwald School Survey Launches

Preservation Virginia included Rosenwald Schools on our 2013 list of Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places. Since then, we have worked with individuals, groups and localities to help them preserve these historic schools by being a resource for them, giving needed advice and direction toward their preservation efforts. The Rosenwald rural school building program was a major effort conceived by Booker T. Washington and funded in part by Julius Rosenwald to improve the quality of public education for African Americans. Between 1917 and 1932, more than 360 Rosenwald schools were built in Virginia. Thanks to a federal grant of $50,000 from the Underrepresented Communities grant program of the National Park Service (NPS), awarded to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) in partnership with Preservation Virginia, an architectural survey of all Rosenwald Schools in Virginia has begun. The initial phase of the project will document the condition of approximately 192 Rosenwald Schools in the Piedmont region. This phase’s completion will enable future efforts to survey remaining schools across the state and develop plans for reuse and commemoration.

An important component of the project will be engaging preservation partners and volunteers to document Rosenwald Schools in their communities using an online application. Users can record preliminary survey information about a Rosenwald School, tag its location and upload images. This data will help Preservation Virginia and DHR follow up to supplement and verify survey data. Once completed, the results will be entered into DHR’s Virginia Cultural Resource Information System. Other grant funded activities will include the nomination of at least three schools to the National Register of Historic Places and the exploration of a highway marker program for school sites where the structures no longer exist. Along the way, Preservation Virginia will continue to help groups advocating on behalf of Rosenwald Schools protect their historic resources.

If you know the location of a Rosenwald School in the Piedmont Region, please contact Justin Sarafin at jsarafin@preservationvirginia.org or 804.648.1889, ext. 317.

Making the Numbers Work: An Interview with Dave McCormack

Between 1997 and 2014, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (HRTC) resulted in 2,350 projects and $4 billion in private investment in the Commonwealth. Preservation Virginia, the Home Builders Association and the Association of Commercial Real Estate are partnering to commission a deeper dive into the economic impacts of historic tax credits. This updated study will go a long way in proving the success of the historic tax credit program and its ability to both save history and revitalize communities.

Recently, we sat down with Dave McCormack of Waukeshaw Development to discuss his experience with the tax credit program and its importance in Virginia.

How did you learn about the HRTC program?

Going back to 2000, I was hearing people talk about tax credits. But there seemed to be a lot of misinformation out there. The more I looked into it, I realized it was very different from what the average person knows or purports to know. There’s a disconnect between what many owners of historic properties think the tax credits are and what’s real. Some people think it’s too hard or too complex. But with the right information and the right guidance, it can be a really powerful tool.

What was your first historic tax credit project?

In Petersburg in 2006, a building now known as the Mayton Transfer Lofts.

Would you have done your rehab projects without the tax credit?

Absolutely not. There’s not a single project we would’ve done without a credit. Without the credits many of these locations would be bulldozed […] and if these places were erased from the map, these towns would have not just a hole in the streetscape, but a hole in their history. The stories these buildings tell are critical to the tourism and economics of not just cities, but small towns. If these places are lost, it’s not just income off of a local tax or property tax that they’re missing out on, they’re also missing tourism potential, jobs and a chain of development events that leads to more amazing development opportunities.

For a town, these old buildings are a piece of their story, but also a great asset and development tool.

How important is the tax credit to Virginia history and community revitalization?

Should we as a community let these buildings go […] or work together and bring them back up? People do want to be among these old buildings and these stories and there’s a real connection to them. In a lot of these small towns, you’re not going to see new construction because the rental market doesn’t support it. So a demolition is bad all the way around. These projects help solve the bigger problem in rural Virginia which is economic development. But these buildings take so much capital to bring them back to life, that without tax credits, the numbers don’t work.

How was your favorite HRTC project?

The most important project I’ve ever done is Demolition Coffee in Petersburg, which was a tiny project. It reset the tone in 2009. It became a beacon for the community—banks, economic development people, preservationists, they all see the people training through that place, and they feel inspired and want to get involved, make loans and see more of these projects done. Against all odds you can make something amazing happen. It’s a catalytic effect—one project can bloom into a massive revitalization of a neighborhood.

What communities does the tax credit serve?

There seems to be a misconception that only big cities utilize the credit. This program is critically important to the future of smaller towns over the next thirty years. The tax credit doesn’t exact change overnight. It works, but it’s a long term process. As inventory in the big cities wanes, developers are looking for other possibilities in more rural locations across Virginia. Small towns represent the next strata for opportunity for these projects.

What was your favorite HRTC project?

The most important project I’ve ever done is Demolition Coffee in Petersburg, which was a tiny project. It reset the tone in 2009. It became a beacon for the community—banks, economic development people, preservationists, they all see the people training through that place, and they feel inspired and want to get involved, make loans and see more of these projects done. Against all odds you can make something amazing happen. It’s a catalytic effect—one project can bloom into a massive revitalization of a neighborhood.

Subscribe to our Legislative Alerts at http://bit.ly/PVANewsletter for updates on Virginia’s Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program.
Historic House Museum
was built in 1823.

Emergencies Happen and We Need Resources to Help

Preservation Virginia needs to be able to respond at a moment’s notice to help.

Last year, for example, news came from Petersburg that city museums would be closed as a result of budget cuts. This would have been a blow to tourism in the city, and posed a threat to significant sites and collections. Moreover, if the museums were shuttered even temporarily, it was unclear when or if they would reopen. The local community rallied, and the Petersburg Preservation Task Force organized efforts to address these threats. The Task Force turned to Preservation Virginia for help, and we were able to use the Nannette F. Dunlop Fund (which is restricted to use in the Petersburg area) to make an emergency grant of $20,000 to help keep the museums open for three months. This reprieve gave the Task Force needed time to launch a fundraising campaign.

We are pleased to report that Centre Hill and Blandford Church have remained open. Work has also begun at the Siege Museum and the task of cataloging and securing each of the museums’ important collections is well underway.

Meanwhile, two historic African-American cemeteries in Richmond have been largely neglected for years. Evergreen Cemetery and East End Cemetery, established in 1891 and 1897 respectively, are the final resting places of Maggie L. Walker, Tom Hamlin and Don Haynie, respectively. The Enrichmond Foundation, a local nonprofit, is working along with community groups to coordinate the restoration and conservation of these historic cemeteries. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation has announced that it would allocate $400,000 to secure conservation easements at the cemeteries, and Preservation Virginia stepped up to help provide needed funding by making a loan of $50,000 towards the effort. In June, Enrichmond announced that it had purchased Evergreen Cemetery and it is currently working to take ownership of East End Cemetery. In both of these cases, Preservation Virginia was fortunate to have funds available to respond and help protect these resources.

But we receive inquiries every day about historic resources that need a helping hand. Having a dedicated fund to aid in addressing preservation threats and opportunities is critical to providing that help. As a result, we are building a $500,000 fund to address preservation emergencies around the state.

You can show your support by attending our Legislative Reception on February 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. or subscribing to our Legislative Alerts at http://bit.ly/PVANewsletter. Together we will continue to monitor legislation that impacts the tools that protect and promote Virginia’s historic places.

You, too, can fight to save the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program by sponsoring this influential event. You can help save the endangered historic resources in Virginia for help.

We Can’t Speak Up Without You

Legislative Reception
February 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HRTC) program is a proven tool that preserves and revives historic properties and provides significant economic returns to the Commonwealth and localities. Again and again, we hear from friends that their rehabilitation projects would not be possible without the HRTC.

So, when the HRTC is threatened, we’re on it:

• Meeting with legislators and decision-makers to share the effectiveness of the HRTC for historic preservation and economic development.
• Building coalitions that bring people like you together, strengthening the voice for historic preservation.
• Creating and distributing actionable alerts to keep you and our network informed.

You can show your support by attending our Legislative Reception on February 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. or subscribing to our Legislative Alerts at http://bit.ly/PVANewsletter. Together we will continue to monitor legislation that impacts the tools that protect and promote Virginia’s historic places.

Leave a Legacy in Historic Preservation

“Having grown up in the shadows of APVA properties, the historic sites overseen by Preservation Virginia will be cared for and appreciated for generations to come. Each property tells a story of historic significance true to Virginia’s history. We care enough for all that Preservation Virginia represents which is why we do our part in the way of legacy gifts.”

Tom Hamlin and Don Haynie
Legacy Circle Members

If you’d like to discuss planned giving options or including Preservation Virginia in your estate plans, please contact Will Glasco at wglasco@preservationvirginia.org or 804.648.1889, ext. 311, to learn more about joining our Legacy Circle.

Education in action: students from the University of Virginia attended the annual Legislative Reception to learn more about public policy and the benefits of historic preservation in Virginia.
Remembering George Freeman and Andy Williams

This summer, we lost two good friends—George Clemon Freeman, Jr. and D. Anderson “Andy” Williams. George’s entire career focused on energy and environmental law. His visionary leadership was instrumental to pioneering Virginia’s adoption of historic and open space preservation legislation.

That law continues to provide essential tools for historic preservation and land conservation that help protect unique resources and contribute to the Commonwealth’s vibrant economy. George shared his wisdom, insights and keen perceptions with Preservation Virginia for decades, often engaging in lively discussions on a host of issues.

Andy was our “Mad Man” who tirelessly volunteered to raise awareness and sharpen Preservation Virginia’s brand. He was an early champion of providing a seamless visitor experience at Historic Jamestowne and encouraged an expanded partnership with the National Park Service. He and Alan Voorhees co-chaired the Historic Jamestowne Planning Committee that led to the design of the facilities and interpretive landscape in place today. Whether in “coining” the Historic Jamestowne logo or developing the statewide brand, Andy was a mentor and provocateur who always reminded us that we would succeed because our mission was based on “value, trust and relevance.”

Thank you Andy and George for your leadership and friendship.

James River Advocacy

Defending Historic Jamestowne is in Preservation Virginia’s DNA. Since our founding in 1889, protecting and interpreting Jamestown’s history and maintaining its integrity has been at the heart of our organization. In 2018, Preservation Virginia and a coalition of ten national, regional, statewide and local organizations began advocating for a solution that would provide power to the Peninsula and preserve the iconic historic places that have been respected and preserved for centuries. This July, we suffered a setback in our efforts to protect these irreplaceable landmarks associated with the very beginnings of our nation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted a permit that will allow the construction of 17 transmission towers—some as tall as the Statue of Liberty—across the historic James River and within sight of Black Point at Jamestown Island, the Colonial Parkway and Carter’s Grove. In response, we joined with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to file a lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Columbia with representation by the global law firm Dentons. With the help of world-renowned monuments conservator, Jon Appell, the Rediscovery team was able to safely remove the tombstone from the bed of soft shell mortar it was cemented in by early AFVA preservationists.

With the construction of the new transmission lines moving forward, the most iconic artifacts—the “knight’s tombstone.” That law continues to provide essential tools for historic preservation and land conservation that help protect unique resources and contribute to the Commonwealth’s vibrant economy. George shared his wisdom, insights and keen perceptions with Preservation Virginia for decades, often engaging in lively discussions on a host of issues.

Thank you Andy and George for your leadership and friendship.

Update from Historic Jamestowne

Since November 2017, Jamestown Rediscovery archaeologists have been excavating inside the 1807 Memorial Church to learn more about the three 17th-century churches that once stood in this location. The first church, built in 1617, was where the first legislative assembly, now known as the General Assembly, in North America met in the summer of 1619. After months of archaeological testing in the chancel, the team now has a greater understanding of the layers that make the floors of the three churches, and excavations have expanded into the body of the church.

A highlight of the church excavations is the work being done to conserve one of Jamestown’s most iconic artifacts—the “knight’s tombstone.” With the help of world-renowned monuments conservator, Jon Appell, the Rediscovery team was able to safely remove the tombstone from the bed of soft shell mortar it was cemented in by early AFVA preservationists.

Visit Historic Jamestowne and witness the rediscoveries that are uncovered every week during this exciting time. Learn more at www.historicjamestowne.org.

Kelso’s Book: “Jamestown, the Truth Revealed”

Dr. William Kelso, director of archaeology for Jamestown Rediscovery, recently published, “Jamestown, the Truth Revealed.” In this new book, he traces back the last ten years of archaeological evidence and research at Historic Jamestowne to continue illuminating the lives and deaths of the first settlers and their endeavors and struggles. The book also adds new insight into their relationships with the Virginia Indians.

With fascinating details and images, Dr. Kelso describes the recent excavations of numerous additional buildings, including the settlement’s first church, which served as the burial place of four Jamestown leaders, the governor’s row house during the term of Samuel Argall, as well as the research that confirmed the act of survival cannibalism in the colony during the “starving time.”

“Jamestown, the Truth Revealed” lives up to its name as Dr. Kelso and his team of highly skilled archaeologists have been able to refute the misconceptions often attributed to those first settlers and create a vivid picture of America’s first permanent English settlement.
Lance Warren (Right) Co-directors Hannah Ayers and Lance Warren, to share portraits will run through the month of September. T
John Marshall House Justice Gallery. The exhibit public viewing in the newly restored John
hundreds from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. and
Nancy Whiting, executive director, St. John's Church Foundation.
Mr. Marshall was a child of the American Revolution, schooled and shaped by the struggle’s many strategies to secure self-government rooted in the will of a united people. He understood the need for fairness and logic in the prosecution of law. It’s impossible to know what he would’ve thought of today’s challenges to justice in Richmond. But his example makes clear to us that the place where we can begin to study his legacy today is exactly the place to consider how to do justice to those in Richmond in a way that treats them as they are—our neighbors, our fellow Americans, sometimes our family members, and hopefully our friends.”
Richmond Justice is the first of a series of exhibits to be held in the John Marshall House’s new Justice Gallery generously supported by the Beirne Carter Foundation. The John Marshall House, located in the heart of Richmond’s fashionable 19th-century Court End neighborhood, is open March through December on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Save and replicate historic materials requires specialized craftsman? Mike working at St. John’s Church possesses the expertise to do the job correctly and in line with the Secretary of Interior’s standards. Our architectural conservator, Janelle Sahutski, who specializes in architectural materials conservation and project management, oversees and coordinates all restoration projects. Contact Janelle at jsahutski@preservationvirginia.org or 804.648.1889, ext. 307 to schedule a consultation today.

When you have a historic landmark as important as St. John’s Church, you want to go with the best. We knew we would get that with Mike Adams at Preservation Virginia.”

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Co-directors Hannah Ayers (Left) and Lance Warren (Right)

John Marshall House Justice Gallery

The Richmond Justice exhibit is open for public viewing in the newly restored John Marshall House Justice Gallery. The exhibit will run through the month of September. Richmond Justice started in 2016 as a year-long project produced by Field Studio co-directors, Hannah Ayers and Lance Warren, to share portraits and stories of Richmonders whose lives have been shaped in some way by the justice system.

Warren spoke to us about the significance of this exhibit being at the John Marshall House stating: “John Marshall was a child of the American Revolution, schooled and shaped by the struggle’s many strategies to secure self-government rooted in the will of a united people. He understood the need for fairness and logic in the prosecution of law. It’s impossible to know what he would’ve thought of today’s challenges to justice in Richmond. But his example makes clear to us that the place where we can begin to study his legacy today is exactly the place to consider how to do justice to those in Richmond in a way that treats them as they are—our neighbors, our fellow Americans, sometimes our family members, and hopefully our friends.”

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See What’s Happening at our Historic Museums

A major fall 2017 exhibition at the John Marshall House, Richmond, VA

Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown, American Wars: Revolutionary and Civil War Encampments Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The First Virginia Regiment will be setting up encampments all weekend. Bring the family to compare and contrast military life in the 18th and 19th centuries.

John Marshall House, Treachery and Treason with Agecroft Hall Saturday, November 4, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Recount the Aaron Burr Treason Trial and the treachery of Guy Fawkes with special tours of the John Marshall House and Agecroft Hall.

Bacon’s Castle, Guy Fawkes Day Sunday, November 5, 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. Warm up on Guy Fawkes Day with a special tour and activities including a traditional bonfire and evening chant.

The John Marshall House and Agecroft Hall will offer special fall and holiday experiences with patriotic themes and holiday traditions like Christmas open house tradition. At the John Marshall House you can get started on holiday shopping for unique gifts, take a festive tour and enjoy hot mulled cider and holiday treats with period recipe cards.

See Fall 2017 Upcoming Events

Enjoy unique fall and holiday experiences with the family at Preservation Virginia’s historic sites! Admission to our sites is free for all Preservation Virginia members.

Preservation Virginia 204 West Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23220-5012

Visit preservationvirginia.org/events for complete details on all of our upcoming events.