HELP FIND
Virginia’s Rosenwald Schools

More than 360 Rosenwald schools were built in rural areas across Virginia to improve the quality of public education for African Americans in the South. We’re calling on community members and Rosenwald alumni to share their intimate, local knowledge of the schools in their area to preserve this important history.

Get Involved! If you know the location or former site of a Rosenwald school in your community, you can use our mobile survey tool to record preliminary information about the school, tag its exact location and upload images in real time. Ultimately, this information will be verified and used to advocate for the commemoration and adaptive re-use of Rosenwald school buildings so they can once again be vibrant community resources.

Visit bit.ly/rosenwaldinitiative to access the survey tool and learn more about our Rosenwald school advocacy work.
While there were changes to Richmond William B. Kerkam, III Richmond C. Hobson Goddin Richmond William G. Beville* Hanover HONORARY TRUSTEES Alexandria Mechanicsville Linda Marks Williamsburg Penn Laird Kevin R. Hardwick Alexandria Audrey P. Davis Newport News Kenneth Adams Chief Emeritus Charlottesville H. Pettus LeCompte Berryville, Virginia Maral Kalbian Alexandria Vice Chair John H. Guy, IV Vice Chair VICE CHAIR Board Secretary Patricia Loughridge Richmond CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PRESIDENT Elizabeth S. Kostelny Patricia Loughridge Trip Pollard, Chair, Patti Loughridge Preservation Virginia Releases New Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Study D ecision makers need facts and data to formulate wise decisions. First Lady Pam Northam debuted the results of our study of Virginia’s Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HRTC) program along with complementary analysis undertaken by the Department of Historic Resources at our 2018 Legislative Reception in February. In partnership with the Home Builders Association, we enlisted Baker Tilly, a national auditing firm, to measure the return on the Commonwealth’s investment in the HRTC program. The study confirmed what we know: the HRTC program makes good economic sense. The study uses data from projects certified in 2014. The results? Estimates show that 2014 preservation projects generated almost $373 million in economic activity and supported more than 7,000 construction jobs. Once completed, the projects had a lasting economic impact and created an estimated 2,691 permanent jobs. And importantly, neglected, vacant buildings were repurposed and returned to productive use which inspired further revitalization efforts. This fall, the General Assembly may consider tax reform in a special session. The results of this study will be powerful confirmation of the catalytic effect of the HRTC program and the positive benefits in preserving what defines Virginia—our historic fabric. We are grateful to the many supporters that made this study possible. It has been a true partnership with preservationists, developers and all who work in the field. To learn more about the Baker Tilly study, visit bit.ly/HRTCStudy. The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program doesn’t just preserve the places that make Virginia unique, in 2014 alone it: • resulted in $467 million in economic output • supported 9,960 jobs • generated $3.50 for every $1 invested through the first three years Preservation Virginia holds the notable distinction of being the first statewide historic preservation organization. We have a proud legacy of preserving, promoting and serving as an advocate for Virginia’s treasured places of memory. In 2009, after 120 years in operation, we embarked on an ambitious new programmatic vision to serve as a resource in the continued and future growth of the historic preservation movement. Now almost a decade later, we are well on the way to achieving that vision. This issue captures the diverse and impactful nature of our efforts. You’ll read about brick and mortar preservation projects that maintain and care for our historic structures. You’ll learn how crowd sourcing and a new app are helping to locate and document Rosenwald schools and you’ll make Friday night dates with us at the John Marshall House to be part of engaging community discussions! Last fall, we organized an advocacy effort to protect the federal historic tax credit (HTC). We joined a national campaign supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to ensure that this important economic tool was retained in the tax reform plan. We are grateful to many of you who reached out to your legislators to share how the HTC program has revitalized Virginia’s urban and rural communities and preserved historic buildings. While there were changes to the program, it is still available for future projects. As this issue goes to press, the 2018 General Assembly session is drawing to a close. A special fall session is being considered to discuss tax reform. In anticipation of those discussions, we commissioned an economic analysis to measure the return on the Commonwealth’s investment from the state’s historic tax credit program. You’ll read the study’s summary on these pages and we hope you will visit our website and subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn more about how you can help protect this program and the historic places it preserves. Thank you for believing in our vision.

Preservation From Where I Stand

Preservation Virginia 204 West Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23220-3012 preservation virginia.org 804-648-1989

Cover: Students from Randolph-Macon College are conducting an archaeological study at Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown. First Lady Pam Northam (above and 2nd to left) with former Preservation Virginia Vice Chair, Trip Pollard, Chair, Patti Loughridge and CEO Elizabeth S. Kostelny.

You can support Virginia’s historic resources by easily and securely establishing a monthly gift to Preservation Virginia at bit.ly/preserveva. When you give monthly, you provide a predictable source of funding which ensures that funds are immediately ready to invest in our most urgent preservation, advocacy and education efforts. Establishing a monthly gift is an easy and efficient way to support the work that matters to you all year long.

If you would like to establish a monthly gift, please contact Kate McClung at 804.648.1889, ext. 305, or visit bit.ly/preserveva to learn more.

Make an Impact on Virginia’s Historic Resources All Year Long

bit.ly/HRTCStudy
We are no longer limited to having to go to the library and look through an encyclopedia when we want to learn something. — Madeleine Henrie

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission student members, (left to right) Madeleine Henrie, Sean Diment and Justin Burns. Together, they’ve documented Virginia Beach history.

At our Legislative Reception in February, we met three Virginia Beach students who blew us away with their work. They are doing to document local history in their hometown using the Clio app. The students’ journey to document local history started with our 2017 Virginia Preservation Conference in Petersburg. It was there that Mark Reed, historic preservation planner for the city of Virginia Beach, first learned about the crowdsourced Clio app from keynote speaker David J. Trowbridge, Ph.D., Marshall University. Trowbridge, an associate professor and director of African American studies, created the Clio app, which pinpoints your location and allows you to discover the history that surrounds you. The app has grown to include information on nearly 30,000 landmarks, historic markers, museums and cultural sites across America. It also includes 250 walking tours.

After our conference, Reed and other members of the Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission enlisted the commission’s student members, Madeleine Henrie, a senior at Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, and Sean Diment, a senior at Ocean Lakes High School, to begin using the app in Virginia Beach.

“It seemed like a good way to help get them involved in an activity that would have a tangible result in providing information on the app about specific historic places in Virginia Beach whether existing or no longer existing,” says Reed. Henrie and Diment, who were appointed to the commission by Virginia Beach City Council, both agree the Oceanfront is a great place to create entries for the Clio app. The area is home to many historic sites including Dewitt Cottage, now the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, the Cavalier Hotel and Preservation Virginia’s Cape Henry Lighthouse.

“There’s so much history down at the Oceanfront because that’s really where the City of Virginia Beach was mostly founded,” says Diment.

The Clio app presents an opportunity for younger tech savvy generations to get involved in historic preservation and teach communities about the history hidden in their backyards. Both students say their peers have taken an interest in the local history they’re uncovering—history that isn’t widely taught in Virginia Beach schools.

“We have so much more technology at our fingertips that allows us to learn and all of that [historical] information is available to us. We are no longer limited to having to go to the library and look through an encyclopedia when we want to learn something,” says Henrie. The Clio app is available to download for free from either the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android). Take note from Henrie and Diment and start a movement in your community to educate the public about your local history with the Clio app.

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission student members, (left to right) Madeleine Henrie, Sean Diment and Justin Burns. Together, they’ve documented Virginia Beach history.

Surveying Rosenwald Schools in Farmville:
Q&A with Longwood University Student

I ast summer, we launched our statewide survey of Rosenwald schools. We recently partnered with Longwood University anthropology professor, Brian Bates, Ph.D., RPA, and his students to document schools in Prince Edward and Cumberland counties. Equipped with our mobile survey app, the students went into the community over winter break for a hands-on lesson in architectural surveying. We interviewed one of Bates’ students, Adriana Brown, a freshman majoring in Anthropology and Archaeology, about her experience surveying Rosenwald schools.

What interested you the most about assisting with this project?

I’ve always been interested in history. It’s always been one of my strongest subjects and greatest passions. I’ve always seen the importance of learning about the past so we can move forward in a more positive way. I had never heard of Rosenwald schools before and had never done historical surveying, so I was definitely excited to try and learn something new.

What was your experience surveying the schools like?

I loved every aspect of it, but especially the research part. When I was researching the counties further away, I looked for schools on the internet using primary sources and old maps. I even found community websites where people were talking about how much they love the Rosenwald schools. Actually finding the schools, taking pictures and documenting them was an exciting process because it wasn’t like anything I had ever done before. It gave me a sense of pride to know that I could find something that a lot of people have forgotten about.

What was it like using Preservation Virginia’s mobile survey app?

The app is pretty intuitive. I also carried a paper copy of the survey to supplement the app in case I couldn’t access WiFi in the rural areas.

What types of Rosenwald schools did you find?

I found schools in all forms. There were some that were still standing, residences, falling down and demolished. I definitely think I found great examples of all stages of Rosenwald schools.

How hard was it to find schools that had been turned into residences?

Most of them were pretty easy to find because I had the [geographic] coordinates and they had their original color scheme. They hadn’t really changed.

How do you see crowdsourced technology influencing archaeology and historic preservation in the future?

I think it’ll have a positive outcome because you’ll engage people who aren’t experienced [in archaeology or historic preservation] but want to help in some way and maybe feel like they couldn’t participate because they didn’t study archaeology. You get a wide variety and a big bank of information at your fingertips.

Would you say that having an architectural history degree is not necessary to survey Rosenwald schools?

It’s definitely not necessary because I’m an anthropology major, not a history major, and those are definitely different things. I know more about pre-historic things than I do historic things like Rosenwald schools. But, I took the time to research and was out in the field so I built up some sort of knowledge that helped me through the process.
Historic District Survey Heads to Old Towne Petersburg

This spring, we will begin the third and final phase of our historic district survey project in the Old Towne Historic District of Petersburg. These surveys, conducted in partnership with the Cameron Foundation, are an important preservation and planning tool for the city. They provide valuable updates to both the city and the Department of Historic Resources on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Virginia Landmarks Register. The survey project began in response to rapid demolition that was occurring in Petersburg’s historic districts a few years ago.

The completed surveys now help raise awareness for these significant properties, and give the community a sense of place and pride. They also act as an economic driver for the city in the form of heritage tourism, and even as locations for the Virginia film industry. This survey will be completed by the fall of 2018.

Virginia Preservation Conference Will Take Place in Danville

We’re excited to announce that Danville will be the host city for our 2018 Virginia Preservation Conference in October! The conference will focus on protecting historic resources related to Virginia’s unique history created by the intersection of cultures. We’re emphasizing Southside Danville’s rural historic resources, the story of Civil Rights in Danville and Native American history in the region.

Donovan Kyekema, the internationally known Principal of PlaceEconomics, a Washington, D.C.-based real estate and economic development consulting firm, will be the keynote speaker.

Guests will participate in breakout sessions with industry professionals covering a range of topics highlighting the economic benefits of preservation for local economies with an emphasis on tourism and historic tax credits.

With the assistance of local history advocates, we will be hosting walking and bus tours to Danville’s Historic Districts and River Road—a road that parallels the Dan River and travels through historic tobacco farming communities in Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties. Registration details will be available on preservationvirginia.org in the coming weeks.

A Transformative Year at Preservation Virginia’s Historic Sites

We’re rolling up our sleeves at our historic sites! You helped us match a $250,000 challenge grant from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, and those funds are being put to good use in 2018. The impact will be felt all around Virginia, as the grant isn’t specified for one project or historic site. It sets up a capital preservation fund so all of Preservation Virginia’s historic sites benefit. From Hanover County to Virginia Beach, our one-of-a-kind historic sites will see work completed this year.

At Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown, we’re tackling several projects including structural repair to the house’s foundation, lintel repair on a fireplace in the cellar and the re-establishment of gravel pathways throughout the site. At the John Marshall House, we created an exhibit space which houses the all new Justice Gallery; offering rotating exhibits dedicated to judicial issues.

Historic Jamestowne will be installing a power generator at the Nathalie P. & Alan M. Voinnes Archaearium. This will allow the award-winning archaeology museum to maintain climate control in the event of a power outage, which helps protect the artifacts on display. Across the James River in Surry County, the manor house at Smith’s Fort will receive a new cedar shake roof and garden improvements. At Bacon’s Castle, the slave quarter and smokehouse structures will be stabilized and preserved. In Virginia Beach, additional grant funds were secured for a dune restoration project at Cape Henry Lighthouse. The site will undergo extensive renovations to improve the visitor experience and preserve the structure.

We are grateful to those who helped match the challenge grant, including the Koller-Bottmore Foundation, Beine Carter Foundation, Cecil R. and Edna A. Hopkins Foundation, Jane and Arthur Flippo Foundation, E.B. Duff Charitable Lead Annuity Trust, the Camp Foundation, the Ruth Camp Campbell Foundation and the many individual supporters who contributed. Thank you!

Visit our historic sites this year and witness preservation in action. Don’t miss out!

Reflection on Phase One of the Tobacco Barn Preservation Project

Phase one of the Preservation Virginia/JTI Leaf Services Tobacco Barn Preservation Project will be wrapping up in 2018. Funded by a grant from JTI Leaf Services, the Tobacco Barn Preservation Project was created in 2014 to provide small grants to help stabilize and repair tobacco barns in a three-county region. Caswell County in North Carolina and Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties in Virginia. Historic tobacco barns are an iconic part of Southside Virginia’s landscape but have been disappearing for years.

Barn preservation work has included roof replacement and repair, log replacement and repair and foundation work. At the conclusion of the 2018 grant cycle, over sixty barns will be restored/stabilized. All of the barns represent unique resources that afford public benefit and help to create a distinct local identity by connecting residents to their past. Owners take pride in their preserved barns and some have offered to assist with a driving trail that connects restored barns. In addition, one owner has offered her barn to use as a museum while several others have installed their own hand-painted quilt squares as decoration.

The 2018 grant cycle will be slightly different from previous years as it includes the publication of a book showcasing the restored barns. The book will feature histories of the barns and the types of repairs they received. It will also contain anecdotes about the farmers, barn owners and rural communities where the barns are located. Stay tuned for exciting changes to the Tobacco Barn Preservation Project as we enter the next phase in 2019.

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Visit our historic sites this year and witness preservation in action. Don’t miss out!
Historic Jamestowne Archaeologists Using Drones to Map Priority Excavation Sites

Rising ground water has become an increasing threat to Jamestown Island. Evidence can be found throughout the site in locations like Smith’s Field. The small grassy area is gradually becoming a swamp as the island sinks. In an article published by Air & Space magazine, David Givens, a senior staff archaeologist for Preservation Virginia’s Historic Jamestowne, says the field “would probably be another stream” running into the James River if it weren’t for the island’s 100-year-old sea wall. A total of 26 areas on the island are going underwater, which has a significant impact on future archaeological work at Historic Jamestowne.

To combat this issue, Givens and his team are using drone imagery to identify which portions of Jamestown Island need priority excavation. Drone imagery has shown the archaeologists incredibly detailed information that they wouldn’t be able to capture with traditional aerial photography. Overall, the use of drone imagery at Historic Jamestowne demonstrates how easily accessible technology can be used to combat global issues. We are looking forward to sharing what our experienced team of archaeologists uncover.

“A total of 26 areas on the island are going underwater, which has a significant impact on future archaeological work at Historic Jamestowne.”

The John Marshall House Joins RVA First Fridays

2018 marks the fifth year of Preservation Virginia’s successful John Marshall House Salon Series and we’re expanding our programming at the site by joining RVA First Fridays. From April to October, the John Marshall House will host monthly open house salons with a variety of themes.

APRIL: We’re celebrating National Poetry Month with Richmond poets reading original works and historic favorites.

MAY: Experience Art180’s “My Reality” exhibit in the John Marshall House Justice Gallery. “My Reality” is a groundbreaking exhibition and virtual reality installation created by teens impacted by the juvenile justice system in Richmond.

JUNE AND JULY: Join us for “19th Century Summer in the City!” Featuring Belle Isle Moonshine and The Jasper’s Quoit’s Club Punch, these summer salons will explore what has changed and stayed the same in the capital city.


OCTOBER: Kick of the Halloween season with spooky tales brought to you by Spirited History. Register early for a special two hour paranormal experience inside the oldest brick house in Richmond.

Cape Henry Lighthouse to Undergo Dune Restoration Project

Beginning this year, in partnership with the city of Virginia Beach, Preservation Virginia will undertake a seven-month dune restoration project to stabilize erosion and provide an enhanced visitor experience at Cape Henry Lighthouse. In addition, we plan to add bathroom facilities and running water, and perform maintenance inside of the tower.

To date, Preservation Virginia, with support from the city of Virginia Beach, has raised more than $1 million of this $1.5 million project, which includes a substantial Federal ISTEA grant. We still have $525,000 left to raise. A portion of these funds will also support project management and oversight costs, supplemental operating costs and educational programming during the time period that the tower is closed for climbing.

Located on a dune overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, Cape Henry Lighthouse has been a beacon of safe passage since its completion in 1792. Alexander Hamilton’s first act as Secretary of the Treasury was to authorize the building of the Lighthouse.

Today, it tells a story that connects military history, technology, science and the environment and spans the centuries from our nation’s earliest beginnings to present day. A National Historic Landmark, Preservation Virginia has owned, maintained and operated the tower for visitors since 1930.

Learn how you can support the Dune Restoration Project; contact Will Glasco at wglasco@preservationvirginia.org.

More than $1 million has been raised to restore the dunes. We still have $525,000 left to raise.

“My Reality,” an Art180 Exhibit, Opens in the John Marshall House Justice Gallery on May 4

“My Reality” is a groundbreaking exhibition and virtual reality installation created by teens impacted by the juvenile justice system in Richmond. The exhibit was created with support from Scenic, a virtual reality content studio based in New York City, and artists Kate Deciccio, Roscoe Burnems and Catherine Komp. Art180 also partnered with RISE for Youth, a bipartisan coalition affiliated with the Legal Aid Justice Center.

Each part of the exhibit presents viewers with immersive and eye-opening experiences that share the perspectives of youth most impacted by the juvenile justice system. Preservation Virginia is excited to bring this project to the John Marshall House where we regularly ask our visitors to empathize with the role John Marshall played as the supreme arbiter of justice while defining the nation through his monumental court cases and actions.

“My Reality” will run through September 2018 and be available to tour during our regular operating hours or by special appointment.

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“‘My Reality’ will run through September 2018 and be available to tour during our regular operating hours or by special appointment.”
Remembering Shirley T. VanLandingham and William G. Beville

Shirley T. VanLandingham and William (Billy) G. Beville, both Honorary Trustees of Preservation Virginia, were major forces in preservation efforts across the Commonwealth. Childhood friends, they grew up in Petersburg and often traveled together. Shirley served three separate terms as president of Preservation Virginia. Recently, both passed away and their impact on our organization personally and professionally will live on.

Shirley and Billy made life-long contributions to preserving Virginia’s places of memory and chaired the Legacy Circle making the first planned gifts to this program. A gift from Shirley’s sons began the endowment of an emergency fund for community preservation efforts and in 2013, Billy established an endowment fund for Bacon’s Castle that we hope to grow in the coming years. Their leadership together and individually has strengthened our work statewide. They will truly be missed.

Make a Gift, Preserve Virginia’s Historic Places

For more than a century, you have invested in historic preservation in Virginia to revitalize decaying downtowns and instill a sense of pride in the hearts of our towns and cities. Because of you, Preservation Virginia can provide opportunities for school children, work with Main Streets and rural communities to enrich the lives of their residents and be a strong advocate for finding solutions that keep our Commonwealth vibrant. We rely on the support of friends like you to continue our work preserving and advocating for Virginia’s historic places.

To make your best gift and renew your support, contact Kate McClung at 804.648.1889, ext. 305 or donate securely online at bit.ly/preserveva.