

APVA FACT SHEET

History & Mission: Established in 1889, the APVA is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization and is the nation's oldest statewide preservation organization. Its mission is to preserve, interpret and promote real and personal property relating to the history and people of Virginia. Today it owns or manages 34 historic properties throughout the state. The need to save Jamestown Island, site of the first permanent English settlement in America, was the reason that citizens created the APVA. It acquired 22.5 acres of the island in 1893. Since 1934, the APVA has shared ownership and administration of the 1,500-acre island with the National Park Service.

Organization: Governed by a twenty-member volunteer board of trustees, the APVA is managed by a professional staff based in Richmond and on Jamestown Island. The APVA has over 4,000 individual members across the state of Virginia and beyond. In addition, hundreds of volunteers help support properties and educational programs across the state.

APVA Jamestown Rediscovery Project: In 1994, the APVA launched Jamestown Rediscovery, a ten-year archaeological research, interpretation and education program to identify and interpret the remains of the original James Fort. Led by Dr. William Kelso, this work is considered to be one of the most important archaeological programs in America. Besides the dramatic finding of the remains of the original fort in 1996, archaeologists have unearthed some 300,000 artifacts, which are revealing much new information about the settlers. The project is leading up to the year 2007 and the 400th Anniversary of the 1607 landing of the settlers at Jamestown.

Statewide Services: APVA owns or manages properties ranging from the Eastern Shore and Tidewater area to the early frontier of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Aside from Jamestown, APVA sites include: Scotchtown, the Hanover County home of Patrick Henry, revolutionary and first Virginia Governor; the home of Chief Justice John Marshall in Richmond; historic commercial buildings such as the Rising Sun Tavern in Fredericksburg and the Farmer's Bank of Petersburg; Bacon's Castle, Virginia's oldest datable brick residence, in Surry; and the Cape Henry Lighthouse, the first federal public works project under President Washington, in Virginia Beach. Of the current APVA properties, six are designated as National Historic Landmarks and others are Virginia or National Register properties. The APVA also serves as a resource for organizations and individuals on preservation issues.

Economic & Educational Benefits: The APVA serves thousands of visitors and school groups at its properties each year and helps the Commonwealth and the nation economically and educationally.

Revolving Fund: In 1999, recognizing the APVA's special expertise, the General Assembly voted to transfer the Virginia Historic Properties Revolving Fund to the APVA, expanding its statewide service in the cause of preservation.