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VIRGINIA HISTORIC SITES:
ARE THEY ACCESSIBLE TO THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED?

by

Andrea Edwards Gray

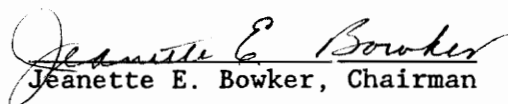
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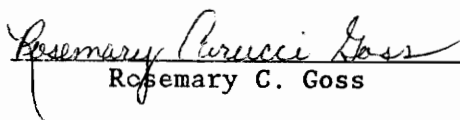
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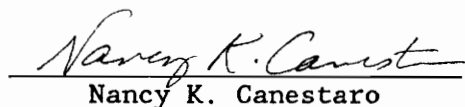
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(ABSTRACT)

The purpose of the study was to determine how historic organizations in Virginia have responded to the issue of handicapped accessibility at their properties. The study sought to determine which historic sites are accessible to the mobility impaired, what handicapped accessible features exist in the sites' buildings and what adaptations have been made to programs and activities taking place at the sites. The study also involved exploring reasons why some historic organizations have not made their buildings and programs accessible to the disabled and determining what future plans the historic organizations have for making their sites accessible to all people.

Questionnaires were sent to 228 historic sites in Virginia; 147 of the returned surveys met the research criteria. Even though most sites had at least one handicapped accessible feature, only 40 sites were reported to be accessible to everyone. Video-tours, slides and large photographs are made available to visitors who cannot participate in the entire tour at some of the historic sites. The main reasons historic organizations have not made their sites more

accessible are that alterations are too expensive and structurally difficult. Forty-eight historic organizations plan to make their properties more accessible in the future.

A directory, containing a table of accessible features found at the sites, general tourist information and a description of programs available at the sites for the disabled, was compiled from the findings of this study.

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Chapter I

Introduction

According to the National Center of Health Statistics (NCHS), 14.3% of the United States' population suffers from some sort of limited physical condition. A majority of these people are 65 years old or older. It is estimated that 7 of 50 people in the United States have limited mobility due to a permanent physical handicap; 1 out of 10 are limited in everyday activities (NCHS, 1986). According to the 1980 census, 12.3 million people between the ages of 16 and 64 were identified as having a disability that impeded their ability to work. Of these, 6.2 million (51% of the disabled working-age population) were prevented from working (Bureau of the Census, 1983).

Not everyone who is disabled can be classified as being handicapped, and not everyone who is handicapped is necessarily disabled. "Disabled" is used to denote people who have incurred an impairment, after having learned to function normally in the world. This term also denotes those who were born with their limitation or acquired it in early childhood (Kenney, 1980). The "disabled" become the "handicapped" when they are limited by social and physical barriers within a society. Many societies have created prejudices that isolate disabled individuals. In our schools disabled children are separated from other children. According to Bowe (1978), "in America today disabled people are defined by their disabilities, not

by their abilities, and public policy reflects these attitudes" (p. 24). For the mobility impaired person, a society that is constantly moving and constantly changing offers many social and physical barriers. Disabled individuals become handicapped when they are hampered in their mobility or functioning as a result of obstacles put in their way by the design of a building, the choice of hardware and equipment, or the arrangement of outside spaces (Kliment, 1976).

Architectural Accessibility and the Disabled

The National Center of Health Statistics (1986) indicates that at least 32,400,000 residences of the United States (14.3%) have some type of physical limitation and would benefit from a more accessible environment. Architectural and attitudinal barriers deny millions of disabled citizens their right to enjoy and participate in our country's rich cultural resources. These barriers exclude them from many community activities. This exclusion has more often been inadvertent than intentional, but many disabled individuals regard it as discrimination. Disabled individuals have the right to assert themselves as customers, and demand that environmental and attitudinal barriers be removed from the marketplace to give them equal access to goods and services for which they spend their money (Bruck, 1978). As stated by Kenney (1980), "improving access for the disabled is good ethics, good public relations, good business" (p. 83).

Disabled people have called attention to a wide range of barriers that exclude them from many community activities. They have learned by experience to expect public places to be inaccessible to them

unless accessibility is explicitly stated. Disabled people do not need programs designed especially for the handicapped as much as they need adjustments that will in many cases substantially improve the service of a facility for its general audience (Kenney, 1980).

According to Anderson and Coons (1979),

accessibility requires careful consideration of the needs of various types of building occupants; and the matching of places to the people who use them, instead of requiring handicapped persons to overcome barriers. A design philosophy that places the users' characteristics and needs at the center of the planning process will lead eventually to the creation of an environment that is accessible to handicapped people as well as the able-bodied. (p. 61)

The most obvious barrier to an individual with a mobility impairment is an architectural one. In the past, architectural barriers were often created because handicapped accessibility was not a concern of designers or builders. There was no public sensitivity to the special needs of disabled people. Sometimes these barriers are inadvertently created by designers, builders and manufacturers who do not know how to create an environment that can be used equally by all people. Obvious barriers are found in our parks, streets, buildings, manufactured products, equipment, appliances and furnishings. Some not so obvious barriers, which vary depending on one's disability, are the pressure of a door or the glare from a poorly placed window.

People are often handicapped not as much by their afflictions as by the design of the products they have to deal with daily (Mace, 1981). There are three main reasons for architectural barriers:

1. The training of designers, architects, engineers and administrative officials has not prepared them to design for the

widely varying abilities of the people who will use their facilities.

2. Among the building professionals there exist negative attitudes and a lack of awareness about disabled people.

3. There is a common misconception that it costs more to make facilities fully accessible to all people (Mace, 1981).

Many designers are totally unaware of the functional abilities and requirements of disabled people. They do not understand the potential for people with disabilities to live active, independent lives.

Buildings or areas of buildings designated for specific uses create varying problems for individuals with mobility impairments. Turnstiles in stores are impossible for wheelchair users to pass through and difficult even for people on crutches. Store aisles are often too narrow, and bank counters too high. In order to enter many public buildings, a person has to step up a 4 to 6-inch curb or step. This small rise can pose an impossible obstacle for the wheelchair user.

Historic Sites and the Disabled

Typically, historic buildings in the United States are inaccessible to the disabled because historic architectural styles often had barriers, such as long, uneven walkways, steep entrance steps, narrow hallways and grand staircases, inherent in the design of the building. Although many wheelchair-bound visitors to historic buildings can drive cars with hand controls and transfer themselves to their wheelchairs, their entrance into the buildings is often impeded by inaccessible curbs and entrance steps. Long distances from the

parking lot to the historic building and uneven walk surfaces cause additional problems for some disabled visitors.

Prior to the early 20th century almost all structures in this country, particularly residential, were multi-level. Therefore, even if a disabled person could negotiate the entrance to an historic building, his ability to proceed throughout the building would be limited. "One person's grand staircase is another's barrier" (National Trust for Historic Preservation [NT], 1985, p. 13). The first floor of an historic building may be accessible but not the second floor. The structure may be incapable of bearing the weight of an elevator. Interior spaces may be cramped, making interior circulation difficult for the disabled. Wheelchair-bound visitors often have trouble hearing presentations and seeing exhibits because they are a foot and a half below the normal level of sight and hearing of the standing adult visitor.

Although few disabled people have participated in historic society activities in the past, there is no reason to suppose that they are less interested in their local heritage than people who are not disabled. For example, an individual who has actively participated in cultural activities and in visiting historic sites may become disabled. This disability would not necessarily quench the individual's interest to continue participating in his/her former activities. Many disabled individuals may be prevented from visiting historic sites because the historic sites and site programs are inaccessible to them. On the other hand, they may be unaware of

programs or facilities that are accessible because historic societies have not mentioned such programs or facilities in their publicity (Kenney, 1980).

The fear of harming historic structures and grounds, and of wasting precious dollars often limits services to disabled visitors at historic sites. Historic organizations are bewildered as how to best meet the needs of the disabled. The first dilemma many historic sites encounter is the one brought about by the variety of limitations arising from different disabilities. Alternatives designed to help one group sometimes hinder another group. For example, most of the time a wheelchair user needs a ramp in order to gain access to an historic building. Individuals with crutches find steps with sturdy handrails more convenient. Small societies, straining their resources to preserve a local landmark, fear that they may be compelled to damage the landmark's historic character and overtax their budgets by installing a ramp or elevator. When buildings are historic structures, substantial alterations may be forbidden by historic preservation regulations, or may be totally impractical. Some historic houses have trouble complying with state and local building codes for public buildings because they were built as private homes.

According to Alice P. Kenney (1980), an historian/ educator with a special interest in improving accessibility of historic sites, most historical organizations have not developed special programs for disabled visitors. Most of these organizations are too small and their sites receive too few disabled visitors. Their staff members or

volunteer guides are not trained to meet the needs of the disabled. Therefore, disabled people who visit many of the historic sites receive the normal tour with a few adjustments made on the spot. Sometimes activities and programs can be rescheduled elsewhere, but when that is impossible, structural modifications may be unavoidable if the sites and buildings are to be made accessible to everyone.

Many important historic sites, especially National Historic Landmarks and those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, are partially or totally inaccessible to persons with mobility impairments. Since a large percentage of these sites are used by the public, accessibility modifications should be considered as a top priority (Loversidge, 1978). Many historic societies are now facing the problem of providing access for people with limited mobility to their sites, specifically the buildings where their activities take place. American National Trust president, J. Jackson Walker, says, "the nation's 4,000 historic house museums realize the importance of opening their programs and sites to all Americans" (NT, August 1986, p. 9).

The conflict between the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 caused much confusion in the minds of historic site curators. The Department of the Interior set up guidelines in 1979 which helped resolve much of the conflict by suggesting building program alternatives and setting up options to be considered when seeking modifications or waivers of access standards. Available funds and

grants from government agencies, foundations and individual donors have encouraged historic organizations to make adaptations to their sites and programs in order to make them handicapped accessible. State and local building codes require barrier-free projects that remodel public facilities (including historic buildings open to the public) be accessible to the disabled. Many building codes contain provisions that allow alternative methods of meeting requirements if the basic intent of the code is followed. In summary, guidelines have been established to resolve conflicts in the laws; funds and grants have been made available; and building code provisions have been established to allow alternative methods of meeting code requirements. Therefore, it can be assumed that there has been a greater consciousness toward providing handicapped accessibility at historic sites.

Handicapped Accessibility of Historic Sites in Virginia

Virginia is a state rich in history, particularly architectural history. It is estimated that the state of Virginia has between 200 and 250 historic sites open to the public. Since Virginia has such an abundance of historic sites, examining the handicapped accessibility of historic sites in the state seems particularly appropriate.

At the present time it is unclear as to which historic sites in Virginia have been made accessible to the disabled, either by modifications to the sites or the programs going on at the sites. In most cases, there has been little information on what adaptations have been made to Virginia historic sites that are accessible to the

disabled. Some of the printed tour guides to Virginia's historic sites use the international accessibility symbol to signify sites that have handicapped accessible features, but many do not specify what these features are.

For example, the Arlington House in McLean, Virginia has published ways in which it has made its site more accessible to the disabled. Disabled visitors are allowed to drive through Arlington Cemetery in order to get to the house. Entry to the house is through the conservatory, over one step at the door and four steps onto the main floor. Advanced arrangements must be made for assistance over these steps. Even though the Manassas National Battlefield Park is advertised as being handicapped accessible, its Stone House is quite inaccessible to many disabled visitors. Access to the house is impeded by three high entrance steps (United States Department of the Interior [USDI], 1978). Presently, nothing has been done to overcome this barrier to accessibility.

Public awareness as to which historic sites in Virginia are accessible to the disabled, and what features they possess that make them accessible, is limited due to the lack of a comprehensive inventory of the accessibility status of all historic sites in Virginia. By identifying historic sites that are handicapped accessible or have handicapped accessible features and disseminating this information, individuals with mobility limitations (14.3% of the United States population) might be urged to participate in programs or activities occurring at sites that are accessible to them. The number

of potential tourists to historic sites would be increased not only by the number of disabled, for whom they have been made accessible, but also by the family members and friends who normally accompany them on such visits.

In addition, by identifying and disseminating the accessibility status of the historic sites in Virginia, a network might develop between sites that have made their properties more accessible and those that are not accessible to all people but desire to be more accessible. For example, the staff of an historic site that has a certain barrier may be interested in finding out which other historic sites in the state have a similar barrier but have overcome it, whether by alterations to the historic building or alterations to programs going on in the historic buildings. The staff at this historic site can share what they have done to overcome a particular barrier and give the site seeking to make their site more handicapped accessible some possible ideas of what can be done.

Chapter II

The Study

Purpose of Study

The primary purpose of this study was to determine how individuals responsible for historic sites in Virginia have responded to the issue of handicapped accessibility at their properties. Those sites that have made their properties accessible, whether it be through building or program alterations, may serve as a model to those sites desiring to make their properties accessible. The secondary purpose of this study was to compile a list of Virginia historic sites, specifying how each site has responded to the challenge of handicapped accessibility, in order that a disabled individual desiring to visit any of the historic sites listed will know what that site has done to address his/her own particular accessibility needs.

Objectives of Study

The objectives of this study were the following:

1. to determine which historic sites in Virginia are accessible to the mobility impaired.
2. to determine what handicapped accessible features exist at these historic sites and what adaptations, if any, have been made to the historic sites' buildings and/or the programs offered, in order to increase accessibility to the mobility impaired.
3. to explore reasons why some historic organizations in Virginia

have not made their sites and/or programs accessible to the disabled.

4. to determine if these organizations have future plans for making their sites and/or programs accessible.

5. to tabulate, interpret and categorize the findings of objectives one and two, and compile these findings into a directory of Virginia historic sites, denoting the accessible features that exist at each site.

Assumption

In this study it was assumed that disabled individuals are just as interested in history and visiting historic sites as non-disabled individuals.

Limitations

This survey was limited to the state of Virginia. Its results may not have general application to other states, but the research process may be of interest to other localities. The questionnaire was addressed to curators of the historic sites in Virginia, but the researcher did not have control over who completed the questionnaire. This study was limited to architectural barriers such as curbs, stairs, narrow doors and narrow passage ways, which would limit accessibility for the mobility impaired. Barriers for the deaf or mentally retarded were not addressed. Communication barriers that occur because of limited vision or total blindness were not addressed.

Definitions

Architectural Barriers -- a broad range of features found in the

environment that prohibit people with disabilities from independent use of buildings or other types of facilities.

Barrier-Free Environment -- an environment with no physical barrier to access by any disabled person.

Accessible Facility -- a facility that may be entered and used by disabled individuals.

Readily Accessible Facility -- a facility providing access for disabled individuals that is of equal convenience with that provided for the able-bodied.

Reasonable Accommodation -- the adaptation of environments, schedules or requirements to known physical limitations of disabled persons in a manner that does not force undue hardship on an institution.

Usable -- the part of an environment that can be used or operated by individuals with physical or sensory limitations (Anderson and Coons, 1979).

Historic Site -- a property or facility that (a) is open to the public, (b) has at least one building on the grounds that is open to the public, and (c) possesses grounds and buildings that are important pieces of history.

Alternative Interpretation -- a method by which a program at a historic facility can be made available to a disabled person when it cannot be made physically accessible.

Mobility Impairment -- a disability that causes the curtailment of movement or ambulation.

Justification of Study

According to Message Factor, Inc. (1983), "[it] is probable that United States historic sites host more than 100 million visitors per year and thus rank as tourist attractions of major importance." In the Message Factor study, researchers state that Virginia stands out above all states for its "historic atmosphere" and "historic attractions." In a study done by James C. Makens (1987), three Virginia multiple-building historic sites (historic sites with two or more restored buildings) reported their attendance records: Arlington House, Colonial Williamsburg, and Colonial Jamestown. They had a combined attendance of 1,708,439 in 1982. The national attendance of all multiple-building historic sites in 1982, reported in this study (response rate of 37%), was 6,380,008. The attendance at the three Virginia historic sites mentioned made up 27% of the national attendance reported in 1982, thus indicating the importance of Virginia's historic sites as tourist attractions.

The Makens study (1987) also involved one Virginia single-building historic site: Monticello. Monticello reported hosting 529,059 visitors in 1984. According to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Mount Vernon is the nation's most visited historic home, with over 1 million visitors annually. Together Monticello and Mount Vernon draw more than 1.5 million visitors a year, again indicating the importance of Virginia's historic sites as tourists attractions. Since Virginia's historic sites are important tourist attractions, any efforts that result in increasing interest in visiting the historic

sites would be socially and economically valuable to the state.

Many historic sites in Virginia are open to the public; therefore they are subject to the laws and social demands that govern other public facilities. This includes making their buildings and programs accessible to everyone, including the disabled. The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and building codes established regulations which require that all public buildings and their programs be made accessible to everyone. Guidelines have been set up to help historic organizations satisfy these laws and the historic preservation laws. Waivers to code regulations are available to sites that meet certain criteria. Funds are being made available to historic organizations to help them make their properties and programs more accessible to everyone.

Historical societies (whose properties are open to the public) are not only legally responsible for making sites accessible to everyone; they have a social obligation to make their buildings and programs accessible to everyone. Disabled individuals make up more than 14% of the United States' population. Since the general population enjoys visiting Virginia's historic sites, it is reasonable to assume that the disabled portion of the population holds the same interest. These individuals desire and need to be integrated into the activities and interest of the rest of their society.

The present study calls attention to the importance of accessibility to Virginia's historic sites for the disabled. The

study not only sets out to promote tourism at Virginia's historic sites; it seeks to advocate a greater social consciousness of the needs of the disabled. This study shows how some historic sites in Virginia have made their properties accessible to the disabled, by discussing the handicapped accessible features that exist at these sites. This discussion may encourage historic sites in the state, that are not accessible, to make alterations to their buildings and/or programs that will promote accessibility for all people. Perhaps these sites will be able to use what has been done at other historic sites that have made their buildings and grounds more accessible as a model for making their sites more accessible to everyone. If the problems historic organizations have had in making their buildings and programs handicapped accessible are identified, local and state governments may become more actively involved in providing the necessary funding these organizations need to make alterations that would make their buildings and/ or programs accessible to all people.

Chapter III

Review of Literature

The issue of handicapped accessibility would not have evolved if the disabled had not pressed the government to take action. The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, established to promote handicapped accessibility, started a movement toward accessibility for all people to public facilities. To provide guidelines and standards for handicapped accessibility, the American National Standards Institute set up model design situations that have been adopted in many state building codes.

According to Parrott (1980), "when federally owned historic properties are repaired or rehabilitated, or where federal loans or grants are used for such construction work, there must be compliance with certain historic preservation laws" (p. 11). Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 states:

The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in any State and the head of any Federal department or independent agency having authority to license any undertaking shall prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, . . . , take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The head of any such Federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation established under Title II of this Act a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking. (National Advisory Council of Historic Preservation [NACHP], 1983, p. 209)

Curators at historic sites quickly realized that the requirements for handicapped accessibility set by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 were in conflict with their obligations to preserve the historical and architectural integrity of their sites under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The intent of both the accessibility laws and the preservation laws must be observed simultaneously.

In 1979 the United States Department of the Interior issued a set of guidelines to resolve the conflict. The 1979 guidelines state that the fullest accessibility should be provided to the disabled while being consistent with the programs of the historic property. The guidelines provide alternative methods of providing accessibility when structural changes are impossible. The guidelines also set up four factors to be considered when asking for a waiver or modification of access standards established by federal policies. The main focus of the guidelines is to prevent substantial impairment of historic materials and character of historic sites by permanent alterations.

Previous research has shown that owners and managers of many public facilities understand the principle of access to all people, but have hesitated when making their facilities accessible because of preconceived or actual costs. These individuals expected high costs with handicapped accessibility, whether new construction or renovation. Therefore, government agencies, foundations and individual donors have established economic incentives to encourage owners to make their facilities accessible to all people.

Presently there has been little research done on how historic sites have resolved handicapped accessibility problems. The American and British National Trusts have taken an interest in this area within the past couple of years. So far there has not been any publication of their findings or of solutions to accessibility problems.

A limited effort to document handicapped accessible historic sites was made by Alice P. Kenney. She did a thorough study, completed in 1979, of museum accessibility to the disabled in 16 counties of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Most of the museums involved in her study were historic sites. This study found that many of the Southeastern Pennsylvania historical societies have made some attempt to make their facilities more accessible to the disabled.

In 1978 Kenney compiled a report concerning several accessibility evaluations completed by the American National Trust involving the physical accessibility of their facilities. In this report she found that most of the buildings had not been made accessible, and those that had been altered still had many accessibility problems. In this same report, Kenney discussed a pilot study done by the American National Trust at one of its sites. This pilot study experimented with various means of meeting the needs of disabled visitors. In her 1979 study, Kenney included ideas and guidelines for making historic sites accessible to the disabled.

Laws, Standards and Guidelines Governing Accessibility for the Disabled

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. The Architectural

Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480) requires that any building or facility (excluding privately owned residential structures and military facilities designed primarily for able-bodied personnel) benefiting from whole or partial federal financing must be fully accessible to all disabled persons. This means that facilities undergoing major renovations supported by federal funding must provide for accessibility and usability by the disabled. Section 6 of this Act provides a method for waiving or modifying the design standards on a case-by-case basis (Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board [ATCB], 1978). This method for waiving or modifying design standards is important when considering handicapped accessibility of historic sites because most historic sites cannot be made fully accessible to the disabled without permanently effecting historic materials and the character of the buildings. According to Ronald Mace (1981), this Act has not been effective in removing barriers to disabled people because of the following situations:

1. There are inadequacies in the 1961 standards upon which agency standards were based.
2. There have been inappropriate procedures for adopting and applying the American National Standards Institute's standards.
3. The language of the Act itself is vague.
4. There is a growing number of conflicting standards.
5. Review and enforcement of the Act is nonexistent or inadequate.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A protection movement, started by

disabled people who were convinced that they were being denied equal protection under the laws, prompted Congress to pass the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 502 of this Act established the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Board to assure the accessibility of federally assisted projects. The board, which has representation from nine federal agencies, is expected to ensure compliance with standards developed by these very agencies. The agencies monitor themselves. The board has no statutory standard-making authority.

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board is authorized to withhold funds from any building or facility project found not to be in compliance with the standards. It has successfully resolved more than 100 of 450 complaints it has received from concerned disabled individuals or organizations involved with the disabled, almost all of it through friendly discussion. The board has held numerous public hearings focusing public attention upon barriers it seeks to remove (Bowe, 1978). The board also promotes the use of the International Accessibility Symbol in all public facilities that are in compliance with the standards established by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states:

No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 706(a) of this title, shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. (ATCB, 1976, pp. 12-13)

Broadly, this means that any federally supported activity must not

exclude disabled people because facilities are inaccessible.

The first set of guidelines for compliance with Section 504 was issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1977. All these guidelines prohibit discrimination against disabled persons in employment and insist that facilities and programs be made accessible to them within a stated period, warning that neither trouble nor expense will be accepted as excuses for noncompliance. Section 504 guidelines allow 3 years for completion of necessary alterations, but require the preparation of a "self-evaluation" and "transition plan" explaining how such alterations are to be accomplished. The plan must include a statement of the obstacles to be overcome, methods proposed for doing so, and a timetable of steps to be accomplished each year up until 1982 (Kenney, 1980). Section 504 guidelines require that an organization appoint a responsible staff member to ascertain whether disabled individuals can participate in the organization's program when viewed in its entirety.

There has been much misunderstanding of Section 504 guidelines. These guidelines do not require affirmative-action employment, major reconstruction of existing buildings, or immediate compliance. The central requirement is program accessibility, rather than facility accessibility. This means that if the organization's program can be made available to disabled persons without structural modifications, no facility reconstruction modifications are necessary.

Program accessibility can sometimes be achieved by rescheduling activities in part of the building where disabled individuals can

attend them. The requirement is that the facility be "accessible", rather than "barrier-free". In an organization one person is to be designated coordinator of activities for disabled people, with responsibility for securing information, completing necessary forms and seeing that other staff members and volunteers work together and carry out proposed changes. Consultation with disabled persons can also save a great deal of time and trouble, and may prevent costly mistakes (Kenney, 1980).

Section 504 regulations are flexible. They allow institutions to determine for themselves, in consultation with disabled persons, the most effective means of achieving program accessibility. In the context of facility renovation, "the most integrated setting appropriate" for any disabled person will be the one that places his or her actions and activities most clearly in the mainstream of those of non-disabled persons (Anderson and Coons, 1979).

American National Standards Institute A17.1. According to Ronald Mace (1981), a single comprehensive standard for accessibility is needed. This standard would contain definitive technical specifications that everyone could apply to their programs with reasonable certainty that disabled people would be accommodated and which would result in the same accessible feature regardless of where it is located. Accessibility/ barrier-free standards seek to:

1. Determine the size, shape and location of spaces within or adjacent to a building, such as parking and stairs.
2. Control the size, shape and location of objects, such as door

handles, rest rooms, toilets, water fountains, and control knobs.

3. Indirectly place a limit on both personal energy output by disabled persons, for example, limiting the angle of ramps and the degree of hazard a person is exposed to, such as modifying door hardware design to alert the blind whenever doors lead to hazardous places.

4. Specify the size and nature of signs and signals that guide a disabled person as he enters and uses a building (Kliment, 1976).

American National Standard Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped (ANSI A117.1) was developed by the President's Committee of Employment of the Handicapped and the National Easter Seal Society. The research for this report was performed at the University of Illinois in 1961. The 1961 ANSI Standard was a voluntary national standard. This standard was the first to set down specifications concerning design for the disabled and, being the only model available, it was adopted or referenced in every state access code or law during the formative years of accessibility requirements. It was also adopted or referenced by several of the federal agencies during the early sixties. This standard applied to all buildings and facilities used by the public, but did not apply to private residences. "This standard [was] intended to make all buildings and facilities used by the public accessible to, and functional for, the physically handicapped, to, through, and within their doors, without loss of function, space, or facility where the general public is concerned"

(American National Standards Institute [ANSI], 1961, p. 6).

Administrative authorities had the power to grant exceptions from the literal requirements of this standard if it was evident that equivalent facilitation and protection were secured.

State code authorities and federal agencies, with standard-setting power, modified and added to the technical specifications of the 1961 ANSI standards and established applicant criteria. The result was 75 to 100 differing design standards for accessibility in the United States. This proliferation of state standards caused chaos and confusion. There were situations where several standards were applicable to a single construction project, even though they all may have disagreed with each other on any given design feature.

The 1961 standard was reaffirmed in 1971 without change. However, the standard was revised in 1974. In early 1980 the revised standard was adopted by the American National Standards Institute, and was published in May of that year. The new ANSI standard is broader and more comprehensive than the previous version. It leaves the application of the standard up to the agency or entity adopting it (Mace, 1981). This standard includes curb ramps, accessible bathrooms and kitchens, and other elements of housing that were not included in the 1961 ANSI A117.1 Standard. This standard also includes more figures and mandatory specifications (ANSI, 1980). Ronald Mace (1981) asserts,

clearly defined authority for the establishment and enforcement of accessibility standards, a single uniform standard that can be applied to all programs and facilities, and a massive educational program are all essential before

physical accessibility can be affectively accomplished under the law. (p. 275)

National Building Codes. The three national model building codes are: (a) Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Incorporated, "Basic Building Code" (BOCA); (b) International Conference of Building Officials, "Uniform Building Code" (ICBO); and (c) Southern Building Code Congress International, Incorporated, "Standard Building Code" (SBCO). These model codes (called "model" because they were established as examples) become law when they are adopted as part of a legally promulgated code. Most codes allow the code official to waive any provision if a satisfactory alternative is expressed. Most codes also contain formal appeal provisions. Many building codes contain provisions that allow alternative methods for meeting requirements if the basic intent of the code is followed. These include historic compliance modification provisions, alternative materials and methods of construction provisions, and building rehabilitation provisions.

Historic sites can waive provisions of the codes if they have alternative methods of meeting the basic intent of the code. All three of the national model building codes, under their historic building compliance modification provisions, require that the facility be officially designated as having special historical or architectural significance, and that it be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare. The Standard Building Code and the Basic Building Code require the submission of professional architectural and engineering plans and specifications bearing the professional seal of

the designer (ICBO, 1984; SBCO, 1979; BOCA, 1984).

State and Local Building Codes. According to Charles Parrott (1980), "compliance with state and local accessibility laws on existing buildings is generally based on construction activity ... usually enforced through the building regulatory establishment of the states or their local governmental units" (p. 10). State and local building codes are typically the method used to enforce specific accessibility requirements. Enforcement is made by local building code officials.

At the state level, regulations for the removal of architectural barriers are becoming stricter. Most states have passed some form of legislation requiring accessibility for the disabled in new construction. Fourteen states (including Virginia) also require barrier-free design projects that remodel public facilities to be made handicapped accessible. State and local accessibility laws are not necessarily limited to projects involving state or local government funds. Eight states require architectural accessibility in new privately owned facilities that are to be used by the public, and cities are passing local ordinances that require the removal of architectural barriers in such places. Most of the state and local standards are adapted from the American National Standard Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped (A117.1) and national model building codes.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order

11593. "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" (1971). The chief federal laws that offer historic resource protection are the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" (1971). These laws establish as federal policy the preservation of architecturally, historically and culturally significant federally owned properties and nonfederally owned properties affected by the licensing or financial assistance programs of the federal government. State and local preservation laws and/ or historic district legislation may help to provide a balance between accessibility modifications and historic preservation concerns.

The National Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) states that

it is ... necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to accelerate its historic preservation programs and activities, to give maximum encouragement to agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means, and to assist State and local governments and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities. (NACHP, 1983, p. 200)

Under this Act, the Federal Government is to encourage the public and private preservation and utilization of all usable elements of the Nation's historic built environment (Section 2[5]). Under Title 1, Section 101 of this Act, the designation of National Historic Landmarks was set up and criteria for properties to be included on the National Register and criteria for National Historic Landmarks were established. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, federal agencies are required to take into account the effect

their undertaking will have on National Register properties. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is empowered to review any federal agency undertakings involving historic properties. This Act also established the Historic Preservation Fund. Section 201 established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, its membership, and the duties of the Council.

The Advisory Council's duties include advising the President and the Congress on matters relating to historic preservation; encouraging public interest and participation in historic preservation; advising state and local governments in drafting legislation relating to historic preservation; encouraging training and education in the field of historic preservation; reviewing the policies and programs of federal agencies and recommending methods to improve the effectiveness, coordination, and consistency of these policies and programs; and informing and educating agencies and organizations as to the Council's authorized activities. The act strictly states, in Section 110 [a2], that each federal agency owning a historic site should be certain that their property, which might qualify for inclusion on the National Register, is not inadvertently transformed, sold, demolished, substantially altered, or allowed to deteriorate significantly. When renovation is to be carried out, the site administrator should "preserve, enhance, and restore the distinctive and historically authentic architectural character of the site consistent with the needs of a national museum of the building arts and other compatible use,..." (Title III, Section 306[d2]) (NACHP,

1983, p. 220).

Section 1(3) of Executive Order 11593, May 13, 1971, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" requires that federal agencies, in consultation with the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, institute procedures to assure that their plans and programs contribute to the preservation and enhancement of non-federally owned historic and cultural sites. Section 2[a] requires federal agencies to locate, inventory, and nominate properties under their jurisdiction or control to the National Register. Until such processes are complete, federal agencies must provide the Advisory Council an opportunity to comment on proposals for the transfer, sale, demolition or substantial alteration of federally owned properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register (NACHP, 1986).

Department of the Interior Guidelines for Programs Involving Historic Properties. The National Endowment of the Arts, in accordance with a specific provision of its charter, has been taking a commanding lead in promoting the accessibility of all performing and visual arts, including museums. Many small museums and historical organizations are concerned about accomplishing structural modifications within the limits of their resources and program adaptations within the time their staff can spare from their many other duties. These organizations are also confused by conflicts between requirements to provide access for disabled persons, under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and that of preserving

the integrity (historical and architectural) of historical structures laid down by the Historical Preservation Act of 1966. The conflicting requirements of building codes, preservation legislation, and the guidelines of funding agencies have created complex dilemmas.

The Department of the Interior issued guidelines to resolve these conflicts in April 1979. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the fullest accessibility to the disabled as is possible, consistent with the principles of programs involving historic sites, and to preserve the historic features of these facilities. Section 17.270 of the guidelines states that when it is not reasonable to make building alternatives or structural changes to historic sites, other methods of providing accessibility may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Reassigning programs to accessible locations.
2. Delivering programs or activities at alternative accessible sites operated by or available for such use by the recipient.
3. Assignments of aides to beneficiaries (visitors).
4. Construction of new facilities.
5. Other methods that result in making the program or activity accessible to handicapped persons.

"In the case of historic properties, program accessibility shall mean that, when viewed in their entirety, programs are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons" (NACHP, February 13, 1980. p. 9758).

The Department of the Interior's Supplementary Guidance: Handicapped Access to Historic Properties was developed to provide

general guidance concerning the treatment of historic resources in programs designed to remove barriers to accessibility to the disabled. Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and regulations of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, federal agencies are required to publish regulations to ensure that federally assisted programs are accessible to the disabled. Because properties included in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by activities undertaken according to such agency regulations, there is a need to coordinate the federal policies of access and historic preservation in order to meet the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NACHP, 1980).

After all other methods of providing access have been investigated and found unsatisfactory in achieving access, recipients of federal assistance may find that they have to make alterations to their historic sites. A "substantial impairment" occurs when a permanent alteration is made which results in a significant loss of the integrity of finish materials, design quality or spatial character. Where access cannot be achieved without causing a substantial impairment to significant historic features, the recipient may seek a modification or waiver of the access standards from the federal agency which is responsible for the assistance. The decision to seek a modification or waiver should be based on the following factors:

1. Scale of structure, reflecting its ability to absorb

alterations.

2. Use of the structure, whether the structure is used primarily for public or private use.

3. Importance of the historic features of the structure to conduct of the program.

4. Costs of alterations in comparison to the increase in accessibility (NACHP, February 13, 1980).

These guidelines are presented in Section 17.260: Historic Preservation programs of the Department of the Interior "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Federally-Assisted Programs".

Economic Incentives Promoting Accessibility to all People

Studies have shown that careful planning and design by knowledgeable people can produce buildings and facilities which are fully usable by all people without any significant increase in cost or any loss of function. In some instances accessible design can be less costly than designs that are not accessible to all people. The cost of altering existing inaccessible buildings is more than that of initial barrier-free construction, but it is still relatively small when compared to the total construction cost for replacing an old building with a new one (cost of removing existing building materials + cost of adding new materials = cost of modification).

A study involving seven hypothetical buildings, "designed" to reflect various typical low-rise and high-rise formats, was done in 1967 by the National League of Cities. This study showed that the

low-rise buildings could have been originally built barrier-free for less than 0.5% over the estimated construction cost. Two-story buildings (because of elevators) would have cost 2.57% more. If modifications had been made after construction, the cost of barrier-free modifications would have been, at the most, 1.0% over the original costs (Kliment, 1976). Often, designers who complain about high costs are those who approach accessible design as an add-on or afterthought, designing their buildings without any consideration for accessibility and adding expensive ramps and lifts or other features that might have been eliminated by careful early planning (Mace, 1981).

Funds for structural alterations are available from government agencies, foundations and individual donors. There are three government Acts which may offer financial assistance for removing architectural barriers. The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 offers grants and program assistance to state and local governments to help finance community development programs. Under Title I, Section 105(a5), "projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons", are eligible for assistance.

The Freedom of Accessibility Act (H.R. 2342) was passed in 1975. It provides tax incentives for removing architectural barriers. Once passed, this Act amended the Internal Revenue Code to qualify architectural and transportation barrier removal expenses as tax

deductible items (Educational Facilities Laboratories and the National Endowment for the Arts, 1975). The Tax Reform Act of 1976 contains, in Section 2122, provisions for tax relief for businessmen who make renovations to remove barriers to disabled employees and customers of any facility or public transportation vehicle. A building owner may apply for this tax deduction for 3 years (3 year tax credit plan) in order to make needed renovations. Beginning January 1, 1977, a maximum deduction of \$25,000 per year was permitted, with most costs depreciating over the useful life of the property. No such provisions apply to disabled people who make similar modifications to ensure that they will be able to get to and from work, and to perform in their jobs (Bowe, 1978).

For financial resources and technical assistance, the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts have developed a guide to federal funds and services for cultural activities. A national center has been designed to help artists, architects, administrators and teachers develop new approaches to accessibility to the arts. The provision of federal funds is the key thrust in making handicapped accessibility mandatory (Bruck, 1978).

In modifying facilities, the idea is to make the changes work successfully for as many people as possible at a reasonable cost. In some cases there is very little flexibility and the only option is to do what ever possible to make a facility accessible. An institution can commission a professional consulting firm to conduct its barrier survey. A more cost-effective approach is to use staff members,

student workers or a combination of both to collect barrier data.

It is fortunate that most modifications for the benefit of disabled persons also increase the efficiency of operations and improve service to everyone. "By increasing a historic organization's usefulness as a cultural resource in its community, these modifications may assist the organization in raising the funds it needs for these other purposes" (Kenney, 1980, p. 97). Some organizations may discover that many accommodations undertaken in the building for the benefit of disabled visitors actually improve service to the entire constituency.

Studies Involving Handicapped Accessibility and Historic Preservation

Over the years, Alice P. Kenney has conducted research in museums from a wheelchair. Lehigh County, Pennsylvania Historical Society sponsored Kenney's proposal for a survey of museum accessibility to disabled persons in 16 counties of Southeastern Pennsylvania. With funding from the National Endowment of the Humanities, between 1977 and 1979, Kenney analyzed the facilities and programs at 85 museums in her museum access program. More than half of the museums were historic buildings.

Kenney's survey contained 286 responses from organizational members of the American Association for State and Local History. Kenney surveyed organizations that ranged from groups founded to purchase and restore a local landmark to an organization of residents in an urban historic district which covers a considerable area. Two-thirds of those surveyed thought the interest in historic

preservation was important. In her study, Kenney found that a number of historical societies had well-developed programming for disabled persons, a few were emphatically not interested, and many had been putting off the issue for fear of what it might involve.

Most of the sampled organizations thought of accommodation for disabled individuals primarily in terms of access to their facilities. Two-thirds of the sampled organizations had at least one building that people with limited mobility could approach and enter without impediment. One-fifth had more than one. A fourth of the sample reported that disabled visitors could reach all floors of at least one building. At some of the historic sites, areas open to the public were all on one floor, and a very few contained an elevator. One sixth of the sample claimed to have alternative interpretation of inaccessible areas; follow up inquiries revealed that many of them had been confused by the term.

Most of the organizations that had taken formal steps to comply with Section 504 guidelines had already received considerable amounts of federal funds. One-eighth of the responses to the questionnaires had appointed a staff member to serve as a compliance officer. Only 6% had invited disabled individuals and the agencies that serve them to act as an advisory committee. Two-fifths of the sampled organizations were affiliated with state historical associations and regional consortia. Seven percent reported that these bodies provided advice or assistance in meeting the needs of disabled persons.

Very few of the historical organizations had made any effort to

publicize their accessible features. Less than 10% of the historical organizations mentioned their accessible features in brochures or through media coverage of events involving the disabled. Almost none of the organizations promoted having accessible features through advertising.

Lack of funding was widely cited as the obstacle in the way of improving accessibility. Insufficient staffing was second. Some organizations blamed it on too little interest of the disabled. Some said that their local government was indifferent and state agencies were disinterested.

Only a few of the historical organizations reported having programs specifically for persons with various disabilities, but many more indicated that they try their best to accommodate such visitors within the framework of their existing activities. This is far closer to what the Section 504 guidelines actually require. Some organizations have instructed guides to describe rooms to those who cannot reach them. A few of the organizations have slides or pictures to show to people who cannot reach certain rooms of the tour, and one has prepared a videotape for this purpose. Adjustments needed by persons with limited vision have been much less widely adopted. Many organizations permitted blind people to touch objects and some had special tours for the blind.

This survey suggests that most museums and historical organizations have far less to worry about than many curators feared in meeting their legal and moral obligation to include disabled

people in their general audience. Most societies are aware of the necessity for improving access to those with mobility impairments and some have done so already (Kenney, 1980).

The British and American National Trusts have been conscious of their responsibility to make their properties accessible. The British National Trust published Facilities for the Disabled and Visually Handicapped, which gives details of those properties which the National Trust believes to have accessible facilities for the disabled person. At Cragside, Northumberland, for example, the visitor center has fully accessible facilities for people with special needs, and a lift at the main house so that those who cannot climb steps can view the first floor bedrooms. Many of the Trust's coastal and countryside properties have accessible paths to outstanding viewpoints and picnic spots, and nature walks which are suitable for disabled and blind people. At another facility, Cliveden in Buckinghamshire, wheelchairs are provided for disabled visitors and ramps are available to give access to the house for people using the wheelchairs. The British National Trust does not have the money to put lifts into all of its houses.

The main problem in providing for the disabled is one of understanding the problems of accessibility. The British National Trust is consulting with the disabled and intends to survey their sites from a disabled person's point of view. It also plans to have people with special needs accompany architects and builders on tours of National Trust properties, and give their views and recommendations

on availability of access and interpretation of the buildings (Thompson, 1982).

The American National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is the only national private, nonprofit organization with the responsibility of encouraging public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects significant in American history and culture (Makens, 1987). In 1977 the American National Trust initiated a pilot study at Cliveden (Germantown, Pennsylvania) to experiment with various means of meeting the needs of disabled visitors. In Cliveden's parking lot, the international accessibility symbol is used to reserve the space nearest the visitor center for disabled visitors. Because there is an uneven stone platform at the main entrance, this symbol directs these visitors along a path to a rear door of the visitor center. Buzzers at wheelchair height have been installed along the path and on the door frame. A wooden ramp with a corrugated rubber surface bypasses the single step at this entrance. The path from the visitor center to the house is surfaced with asphalt. The front entrance to the house remains inaccessible because the steps are historically important and the ground slopes steeply away from the house, making construction of a ramp impossible. The kitchen entrance, with two shallow steps, has been designated the entrance for disabled visitors. The staircase to the second floor is so cramped that a chair lift could not be installed. Therefore, a slide and videotape has been prepared for persons who cannot reach the second floor.

Accessibility evaluations were done at several other American National Trust properties, revealing accessibility problems typically found by the disabled. At Chesterwood (Stockbridge, Massachusetts), the surfaces of gravel walks are impediments for wheelchairs; some of the ramps are dangerously steep; the arrangement of the furniture in some of the rooms leave inadequate room to maneuver a wheelchair; and the rest rooms are inaccessible. At Lyndhurst (Tarrytown, New York), a portable ramp is used to bypass two steps at the entrance to the first floor, but alternative interpretation is not yet available for the basement and upper floors. At Drayton Hall (Charleston, South Carolina), the main floor is a full story above ground level. The outside staircase makes a chair lift impractical. The lift also would be historically incompatible.

Three of the Trust's properties have elevators. At Decatur House (Washington, D. C.), an elevator was installed when the top floor was remodeled for National Trust offices. At Oatlands (Leesburg, Virginia), the Eustis family installed an elevator in the 1950s to mechanize an earlier dumbwaiter. It has frequently been used for disabled guests. At Woodrow Wilson's House (Washington, D. C.), a small elevator was used by Wilson after his stroke. Now it is inoperable because it uses direct current. The elevator also is too small for a standard sized wheelchair. The three front steps, small rooms, tight corners and narrow doorways present further obstacles. Plans are being made to repair the elevator so that visitors with difficulty in walking can bypass the steep, slippery and curving

staircase. Plans are also underway to build a portable ramp for the entrance, and to provide alternative interpretation of the upper stories (Kenney, 1978).

Three years ago the American National Trust designed a project to improve managers' awareness of the disabled, and to help improve access to their properties without wrecking their budgets or history. Funded partially by a National Endowment for the Arts grant, this project tried to integrate physically and mentally disabled persons into interpretive programs. The project started in March 1985 with a workshop for directors of the Trust's historic sites, to evaluate their programs and to aid other sites in their regions in evaluating their programs. Beginning in September 1985, at seven National Trust properties, the National Trust's Department of Stewardship of Historic Properties set up workshops in order to convene area historic site managers and advisory committees for the disabled. The purpose of these workshops was to pinpoint potential audiences and their needs. This group evaluated handicapped access of the host properties (NT, 1985). The workshops were held at: Chesterwood, September 4 and 19; Drayton Hall, October 3 and 17; Shadows-on-the-Teche, October 28 and November 8; Frank Lloyd Wright House and Studio, December 2 and 16; Lyndhurst, January 13 and 17, Cliveden, January 13 and 27, and Woodlawn, February 10 and 21.

This project resulted in the National Trust awarding grants totalling \$13,825 to eight historic sites to promote practical ways to improve access for disabled visitors. Four of these historic sites

were National Trust properties. These grants were made possible through a portion of a \$35,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts. The Trust-aided projects aimed to integrate physically and mentally disabled persons into regular interpretive programs and to form close ties between the sites and local disability groups. The following National Trust properties were awarded grants from this project:

Chesterwood in Stockbridge, Massachusetts for large scale photos and replica sculpture, in order to make sculpture and decorative arts more accessible to mobility and visually impaired and blind persons.

Cliveden in Germantown, Pennsylvania to reconstruct ramp access, hire sign interpreters and produce a large-print self-guided tour of the property.

Drayton Hall in Charleston, South Carolina to prepare an illustrated written tour that would allow deaf or hard-of-hearing visitors to follow regular tours.

Frank Lloyd Wright House and Studio in Oak Park, Illinois to prepare a large-print informational brochure for visually impaired, mentally retarded and learning disabled visitors (NT, 1986).

There are several independent historic sites that show some concern for handicapped accessibility. For example, although the Arlington House parking lot is not easily accessible, disabled visitors are allowed to drive through Arlington Cemetery in order to reach the house. Disabled visitors are allowed to enter the house through the conservatory. Advanced arrangements must be made for

assistance over the one step at the conservatory door and the four steps between the door and the main floor. The site is fully accessible on the ground level. At least three other Virginia historic sites have shown some interest in handicapped accessibility: Appomattox Courthouse, Washington's Birthplace (Colonial Beach) and Manassas National Battlefield. These sites have accessible visitor centers, but none of the sites describe their historic buildings as being accessible (National Park Service, 1978).

Discussion of Mobility Impairments

Mobility impairments make up the largest category of physical handicaps. Between 14 and 15% of the United States' population has a mobility or activity limitation due to a chronic condition. Of this designated population, 9.5% are limited in participating in major activities (such as feeding themselves, dressing, using the bathroom), and 4.5% are limited in their activities, but not in major activities. The population of individuals who are limited in participating in major activities include 3.9% who are unable to carry on any major activity and 5.7% who are limited in the amount or kind of major activity in which they can participate (NCHS, 1986).

There are five types of mobility/ activity impairments. The first type of impairment is the non-ambulatory impairment, which confines a person to a wheelchair or bed. This includes paraplegia (paralysis of lower, limbs, possibly involving loss of feeling) and quadriplegia (paralysis of lower limbs as well as differing degrees or paralysis of upper extremities, possibly involving loss of feeling).

The second type of mobility impairment is the semi-ambulatory impairment. This impairment causes a person to walk with insecurity or difficulty. Individuals who have semi-ambulatory impairments include those individuals who have amputations, who are arthritic, who use mechanical aids (walkers, crutches, support canes, or braces), or who have hemiplegia (differing degrees of paralysis affecting one side of the body). According to the National Center for Health Statistics (1986) there are 25 to 26 million United States citizens with deformities or orthopedic impairments. There are over 1 million United States citizens who are missing one or more limbs, and over 1 million with some form of paralysis. In the United States today, 9.6 million people have an impairment to the back or spine, and 8.8 million people have an impairment of the lower extremities and hips. Many disabled individuals fall into more than one of these categories (NCHS, 1986).

The activity impairment is the third type of mobility impairment. Individuals who have this impairment are those who have heart disease (18.7 million), lung disease, arthritis or rheumatism (29.1 million), limited or no vision (8.2 million), are aged (27.4 million), have had a stroke, or are obese (NCHS, 1986). The fourth type of impairment is a coordination impairment which involves a lack of muscle control to the limbs. Coordination problems may be due to brain, spinal, or peripheral nerve injury due to polio, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis. The final type of mobility impairment is an impairment due to stature. This includes children,

dwarfs and giants (Loversidge, 1978).

Recommendations for Making Historic Sites Accessible to the Mobility Impaired

Accessibility requirements for disabled people can either be met by means of program activity changes within the historic site and/or by actual architectural changes to the historic site. A case-by-case study is needed because of the unique architectural and historical components, varying uses, compliance requirements and disabled user needs. For an historic site the systematic development of an accessibility plan is critical. The general planning process for the successful achievement of access to the disabled is always comprised of two basic tasks: (a) collection and evaluation of background information and (b) selection of appropriate methods for providing access (Parrott, 1980).

Charles Parrott (1980) illustrates these two tasks in Figure 1. "A poorly conceived plan often does not meet accessibility requirements and may, in fact, cause long-term problems with remaining historic material as well as introduce new functional problems and unsafe conditions for building users" (Parrott, 1980, p. 15).

According to Parrott, an historic features inventory needs to be done on the historic buildings. This inventory surveys the building to determine its overall historical and architectural significance, and to determine which of its elements are worthy of preservation. Special attention should be given to those aspects that might be affected adversely by accessibility modifications. If the project

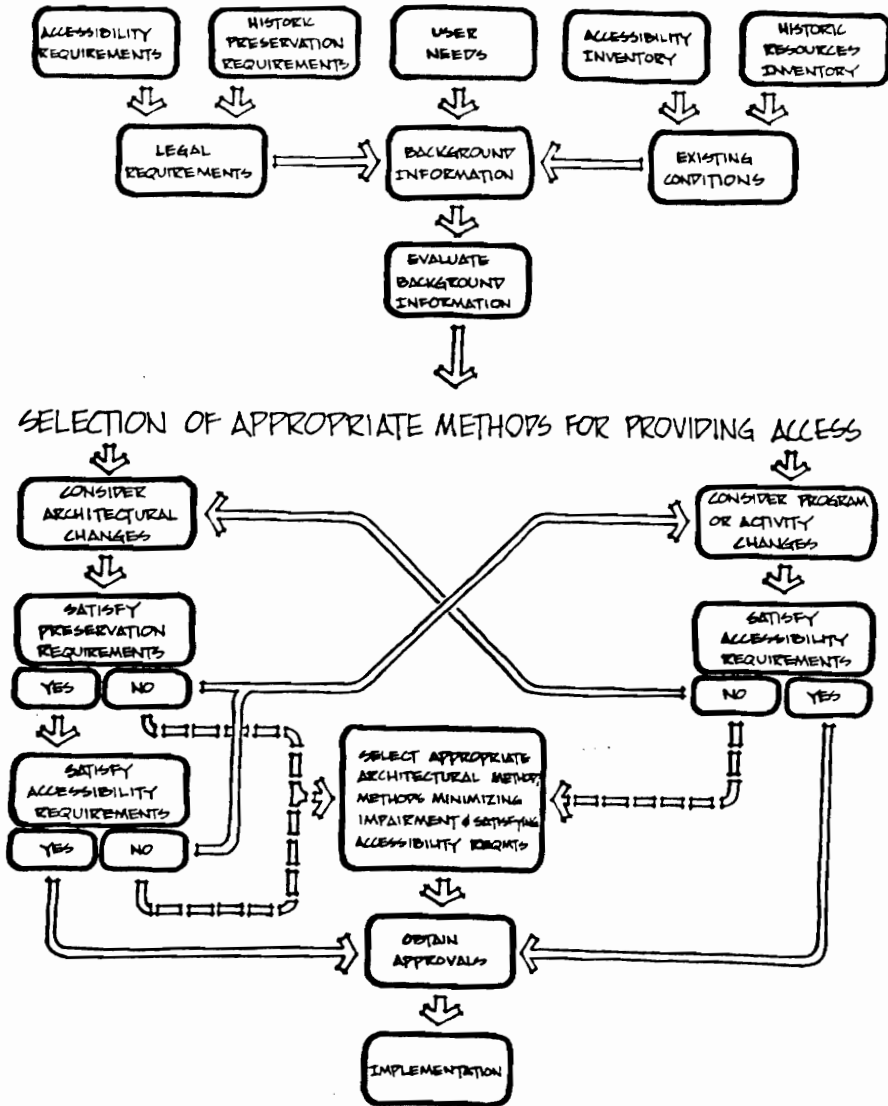


Figure 1. The Planning Process. Illustration: Robert P. Meden. From Access to Historic Buildings for the Disabled: Suggestions for Planning and Implementation (p. 16) by Charles Parrott, 1980, Washington, DC: United States Department of the Interior.

will result in building alterations, information involving the historic evaluation of the building and its proposed changes is necessary to obtain required approval of federal, state and local projects protected by historic preservation legislation. In this inventory, the building's historical integrity encompasses not only the unimpaired quality of the original architectural materials, but also any significant addition of alterations made over the building's life.

An accessibility inventory also needs to be done. This inventory involves surveying the historic site to determine to what extent prevailing accessibility requirements are being met. The requirements of ANSI A117.1, the federal accessibility standards from the General Services Administration, the accessibility standards of the local building code, or other references identifying physical requirements are all suitable materials from which to develop an inventory form. The accessibility inventory should provide information on dimensional and operational features throughout the building and the grounds, which might partially receive design attention (Parrott, 1980) The difficulties of providing access to the disabled who visit historic sites are less than might be anticipated. There are three general approaches to providing access to these visitors:

1. Program or activity changes are made by rearranging program functions to make them accessible, thereby avoiding direct architectural changes. This also includes providing interpretive materials and devices to simulate a service or experience offered

elsewhere in the building.

2. Portable architectural devices can be added. These devices are building components, temporary in nature, that can be removed or replaced without damaging the historical material. These devices may be desirable in cases where:

(a) the special facilities for disabled people are only needed for a short time,

(b) the special considerations require that no alteration be made to the building fabric, or

(c) the ability to temporarily remove the device for special occasion is desirable.

3. Architectural changes which can be reversible or non-reversible can be used. Reversible changes do not involve the removal of significant amounts of historic finish or structural materials, and leave either no damage or easily repairable damage to those historic finishes, details, and/or design and spatial characteristics involved. Non-reversible changes involve removal of significant historic finishes, details, and/or design and spatial characteristics. These changes should normally be avoided.

Program and activity changes satisfy only program accessibility.

Portable architectural devices and architectural changes can satisfy both program and architectural accessibility (Parrott, 1980).

The basic functional requirements a disabled person needs for accessibility when visiting an historic site are:

1. site access up to and around building
2. entrance to and exit from building
3. movement through publicly accessible part of building
4. accessible toilets
5. amelioration of hazardous conditions
6. directional and instructional signs
7. historic interpretation of building (Parrott, 1980).

The historic site should have a designated parking space for the disabled. It is essential that the building be approachable by the disabled person, not only to gain access to it, but also to appreciate fully the significant exterior architectural qualities of the building and the important historic features of the landscape. Walkways need to be smooth, firm and in good repair. In new structures disabled persons, understandably, expect that the main entrance will accommodate them along with the rest of the general public. In historic structures this is not always possible, especially when the building's front portico is of historical or architectural significance. The most accessible entrance to a building is almost always the one with the fewest steps. If there are one or two entrance steps, they can often be eliminated by regrading the walk, which can be gently sloped to blend with the surrounding ground on the sides as well as the approaching surface. Any excavation done in regrading the walk offers an excellent opportunity for an archaeological dig. The foundations for a sloping walk can be laid over historic steps without damaging them.

A wheelchair ramp can be built unobtrusively behind bushes or at the rear of a building. A temporary ramp is the solution for an historic site that is open seasonally and has few visitors. The use of a portable ramp seldom results in damage of historic finish materials. This ramp can be built inexpensively of wood, metal (steel or aluminum) or other strong, lightweight materials. Wooden ramps are less portable than the metal ones. A ramp should rise no more than one inch every foot. Portability limits the lengths or the sections, with two or three piece ramp decks the most common. The ramp should have a nonskid surface. Since the design of a portable ramp is inherently centered on achieving portability and not visual sensitivity, it can detract from a building's historic appearance if placed at an architecturally significant entrance. Problems with this type of ramp may occur if there is a frequent demand, a burden on maintenance personnel, or a hazard of an unsecurely attached ramp. Disabled users would most likely find a permanent solution preferable because of its structural superiority and reliability of placement.

Principal entrances other than the main historic entrance should be considered as the prime ramp location. The architectural character of the original main entrance is usually adversely affected by a ramp. In addition, less architecturally imposing entrances of some buildings are often better adapted for a ramp because they tend to be located closer to ground level, thus requiring a far shorter length of ramp, but possibly creating a greater accessibility problem inside the building. Landscaping appropriate to the historic appearance of the

building may help screen an intruding ramp built parallel to an exterior wall. A ramp should not be so well hidden that its users cannot be directed properly to it. In addition to the possible aesthetic impairment a ramp may impose on an historic property, a ramp installation may create a physical obstruction or hindrance to the able-bodied user of the building. Ramps and ramp platforms built over original steps can block or constrict normal traffic flow.

At historic houses with several steps, a ramp of required length would be prohibitively expensive as well as unsightly and not historical. Some societies are using electric or hydraulic lifts that can be installed unobtrusively on the steps at a side or rear entrance, where it would not interfere with the historical and architectural integrity of the front portico. These types of lifts can overcome level changes less than 6 feet. There are reasonably inexpensive lifts that can be placed beside steps. The mechanism is entirely underground; the platform will sink to ground level when it is not in use. It can be concealed by some very minor landscaping. Vertical lifts can be used without assistance by most disabled individuals, but it is often necessary to lock them when they cannot be reasonably monitored. In bad weather, if the lift is not under cover, it can create a hardship for the disabled user. These lifts also require periodic maintenance. Even though the disabled user tends to prefer a ramp, the vertical lift can often be a better solution in terms of preserving the historic appearance of a building. In addition, a small vehicle trailer (owned by the historic society)

with a side ramp that can be let down over the steps can be used. The wheelchair user can be discharged directly into the historic building.

Many historic buildings have doors wide enough (36") to accommodate a standard wheelchair. One of the hardest problems to resolve in making a historic building accessible is what to do with doors that are too narrow. Doors cannot be widened without damaging the detail and proportion that gives the structure character or help make it historic. It may be possible for a wheelchair, pushed by someone, to pass through a narrow historic door. If this is not possible, the society may wish to consider purchasing a narrower wheelchair for the use of visitors, or the society may have to devise alternative interpretation. Single steps or uneven thresholds can be made easier to maneuver and safer with wedge-shaped blocks; a heavy doorstop at each end should hold them securely enough for one day.

Hallways should be unobstructed and rooms should be uncluttered by furniture. If the arrangement of the furniture pieces is historic, the pieces could possibly be shifted a few inches and not destroy the arrangement's historic authenticity. The floors need to be smooth. Small rugs are dangerous to persons on crutches, as well as create impediments to those in wheelchairs. The rubber or plastic runners sometimes used to protect floors of historic carpets should have a nonskid surface and should be taped down securely at the sides as well as the ends. The route through the rooms should be tested to locate narrow doors and tight corners. Chairs in historic rooms may be suitable for those individuals who need to sit down. Occasional use

may even keep the furniture supple as well as make the rooms seem more homelike. Reproductions can be provided.

Touring the second floor of an historic building presents a number of problems. Some historic mansions have wide, gracious staircases, though cramped landings are characteristic of 18th-century architecture. Homes of the more ordinary early settlers often contain steep, hazardous flights crowded into small areas to conserve heat and save space. These stairs are even dangerous for the general public. Some historic houses have an elevator, installed by their former occupants as a trunk-lift or a mechanical dumbwaiter or occasionally for use by a disabled resident. These "elevators" are very helpful for those who use a cane or crutches, or those who have heart or lung conditions that prevent them from climbing stairs. The installation of an elevator is not necessarily inconsistent with preserving the architectural integrity of an historic house. An appropriate location would be in two closets, placed one over the other, or in a 19th-century stairwell. Stair lifts that are unobtrusive may be used in historic buildings with straight, well-braced staircases. With appropriate training, equipment and physical strength, it is not overwhelmingly difficult for someone to carry handicapped persons, especially children, up and down a flight of stairs.

Another way to make the tour of the second floor accessible would be to present a purely visual tour (alternative interpretation). Large color photographs, including interiors of each room and closeups of selected objects can be presented. Models or dioramas can be used

to illustrate inaccessible parts of the tour. A few objects from the second floor can be brought down so that the disabled visitor can appreciate their color, texture and weight. Slides can also be used. Videotaped tours achieve the immediacy of an actual tour by guides, complete with demonstrations. The "alternative interpretation presentation" should not take more than the time most visitors would spend on the second floor. These presentations can be done on the first floor or in an adjacent visitor center. In some cases where the building itself is being interpreted historically, relocating the interpretive activity to an entirely different building may not comply with the intent of Section 504 program accessibility requirements.

Kenney (1980) suggests that the staff of historic sites take turns touring their facilities by wheelchair to become familiar with potential problems. She believes personnel at historic sites also need to give some thought to their attitudes (misgivings and prejudices toward the disabled) and those of disabled people. Historic sites need to have trained staff aides who can assist disabled individuals with certain architectural barriers. Tours of historic houses by a group of disabled individuals should be small, not more than four or six wheelchair visitors, depending on the size of the house and the number of available staff members.

If historic sites are accessible, many disabled individuals may not know it. Organizations with accessible facilities have discovered that it is necessary to publicize the special services that their sites offer and not merely assume that disabled visitors will visit

the site if they wish (Kenney, 1980). It is possible to publicize the sites' accessibility on a radio or TV talk show, especially during national awareness weeks for various disabilities or during preservation weeks. A slide presentation showing well-known disabled citizens touring a site in wheelchairs may encourage disabled individuals to visit the site (Kenney, 1980). These methods of accessibility can change the prevailing image that historic sites tend to be inaccessible to the disabled.

Close cooperation (on a case-by-case basis) between the owner, local and state historic societies, local code official, and a qualified preservation architect is strongly recommended to insure the careful preservation of a historic site's aesthetic and structural integrity (Loversidge, 1978). Older members and volunteers of historic societies, who are long-term residents of the community, are assets. These individuals are a part of a community's living history. "Their interest in the historical society will help immeasurably with the organization's fundamental task of preserving tradition from the past as a firm foundation of building for future generations" (Kenney, 1980, p. 6). Those who are also disabled in some way have much to contribute.

After museum and historical society Section 504 coordinators have examined their programs and made simple, obvious adjustments or planned more elaborate adaptations, they will want to consult local disabled individuals and organizations whom they serve, in order to prevent expenditure of limited time, energy and resources on

accommodations not likely to be used. The historical organization's administrators will have to make increasingly difficult choices concerning things they want to do and those they simply cannot afford. It may be necessary to limit acquisitions, revise restoration loans, reduce staff and/ or curtail services (Kenney, 1980).

Many historic sites cannot be made barrier-free without seriously compromising their historic integrity. "Imagination and innovation are the keys to success. ... Accessibility is something that will take time to work out and will require understanding on the part of preservationists, the handicapped and those enforcing the codes" (NT, 1976, p. 4). The fundamental conflict between accessibility and historical integrity can be resolved within the continuing adaptation of historical buildings to the needs of the people who use them (Kenney, 1978).

The guidelines established by the United States Department of the Interior, as well as guidelines published by experts on accessibility as it applies to historic preservation, should resolve most of the conflict facing historic societies in making their facilities accessible to the handicapped while preserving the historical and architectural character of their historic sites. Government and foundation grants, as well as gifts from individual donors, should provide an added incentive for historic organizations to make their properties accessible to the handicapped. Studies conducted at historic sites that are accessible to the handicapped and adaptations that have been made to the facilities should encourage other historic

societies to make their properties handicapped accessible. The legal and moral responsibility of making facilities accessible to the handicapped must be reconciled with preserving the historical and architectural integrity of the property, and accomplished within the limits of budget restrictions and overly busy staffs.

Clearly, the accessibility laws are in place; financial support is available; and historic organizations are being encouraged to make necessary changes to their sites and programs to provide accessibility to the disabled. However, there is a general lack of information made available to the public as to which historic sites are accessible. This indicates that there needs to be documentation of the facilities' accessible features in order for them to reap the benefit of the monetary and time costs they invested in making these historic sites accessible.

Chapter IV

Research Methodology

This research is a descriptive study. It describes what historic organizations in Virginia are doing to make their sites accessible to the mobility impaired. To gain insight into problems disabled people encounter when visiting historic sites and ideas they have in eliminating accessibility problems, a preliminary survey was made through interviews with five disabled adults (Phase I). A few of the interviewees are acquaintances of the researcher; the names of the other interviewees were acquired from Wayne Speer in the Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action office on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The individuals interviewed had varying mobility impairments. The least impaired interviewee had only a visual impairment, and the most impaired was a quadriplegic with multiple sclerosis. All the individuals in the preliminary study were men.

Each individual, after having the purpose of the study explained to him, was asked a set of prepared questions (Appendix A). The questions involved (a) experiences the interviewee has had in the past when visiting historic sites, (b) whether or not published information about handicapped accessible features of historic sites would influence his visitation of the facilities, and (c) what questions and/or suggestions he would have for the staff of historic sites

regarding accessibility. The primary purpose of this preliminary survey was to collect data to assist in developing a questionnaire that was to be sent to curators of historic sites in Virginia.

Phase I: Interviews with Disabled Individuals. When asked if they have visited an historic site since they have had their disabilities, all of the respondents stated that they had. Sites they mentioned visiting were Monticello, Mount Vernon, Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Smithfield Plantation. Some of the respondents mentioned visiting historic sites outside of Virginia. As a whole they had not visited many historic sites.

Secondly, the interviewees were asked about experience they have had when visiting an historic site. Two of the interviewees said they had trouble getting from the parking lot to the historic building. They had difficulty when there were no handrails, uneven surfaces and poor lighting. Three of the respondents said they did not experience difficulty getting from the parking lot to the historic building. Two of the respondents said they had difficulty entering the historic building. They were impeded by the lack of no handrails at the steps, with steps not being marked, with doorways being too narrow, with doorways being too high to go over easily, and with steps instead of a ramp at the entrance. Three of the interviewees said they had no trouble entering the historic building. Two of the respondents said they had difficulty getting around inside the building. They were unable to attend the regular activities in the building. Stairs were an obstacle for them because many times the stairs were unmarked, too

steep and narrow, or uneven. The other three respondents said they did not remember having trouble getting around the inside of a historic building.

One of the respondents said that he had visited a site where he could not enter the site or participate in the site's tour. He said that he did not realize that the site was not handicapped accessible. The other respondents said they had never visited a historic site where they could not enter the building or participate in the site's tour. One respondent said that he always checks to see if the site is accessible before he attempts to visit. Another respondent said he has trouble participating in parts of tours that involve movies or films. Many times he has been unable to get close enough to the screen to see the visual presentation.

All of the respondents said that they had never visited a site that offered a purely visual tour through the use of a movie, slide show, pictures or any other methods.

All of the respondents expressed an interest in finding out which Virginia historic sites have made their buildings or tour programs handicapped accessible.

All but one of the respondents said they would be more likely to visit a historic site if they knew in advance whether the site had made building or program adjustments that addressed their accessibility needs. The respondent who did not answer this question positively, said he would not be more likely to visit a site that catered to his accessibility needs because it was not worth the

trouble for him.

When asked what they would like to know about a historic site, in terms of accessibility, before they visited a historic site, the respondents raised the following questions:

- Is there a handicapped parking space at the site? Is it close to the building?
- Are the walkways smooth and even? Are they kept clear of snow, ice, leaves, and sticks? Are the walks steeply graded up or down up to the building?
- Are there signs/ directions to the handicapped accessible entrance if it is not the front entrance? Does the handicapped entrance have a door bell or buzzer that will alert the staff that someone needs help entering the building?
- Does the site have a ramp with a handrail at its entrance?
- Is the building's threshold flat? Are doorways wide enough for a wheelchair to pass through?
- Is there someone available to aid the disabled person once he gets inside the building?
- Are points of interest clearly marked?
- Are there areas that are over lit or under lit?
- Does the building have an elevator?
- Is there a wheelchair available to those visitors who need it?
- Are the site's rest rooms accessible to the disabled?
- Is the tour brochure visually acceptable to the visually impaired?

- How long is the tour (time as well as length)? Can the tour be made slower? Are there special hours or times designated for handicapped tours? Are there tour guides available to assist the disabled visitor?
- What are the special features the site offers to the disabled visitor?
- Are staff members allowed to bring articles closer to the disabled visitor if he is unable to get close enough to study them?

The respondents had various suggestions for historic organizations that are considering making their sites handicapped accessible. These suggestions are as follows:

- Make certain ramps are wide enough for a standard wheelchair.
- Handrails should be long enough. They should reach a little bit further than the top and bottom step.
- Handicapped accessibility should be mentioned in regular advertising and specified in tour brochures.
- Rest rooms, telephones and water fountains should be accessible to wheel-bound visitors.
- Doors should be hung so that they swing in. This way doors are easier for wheelchair and crutches users to maneuver.
- The historic site staff should be available to assist those visitors who need assistance. They should be sensitive to the disabled visitors needs.
- The site should advertise a number to call for more information

on the site's accessibility.

--Steps should be clearly marked with contrasting materials.

After analyzing the data collected in Phase I, it was found that the respondents had visited the more famous historic sites in Virginia. They said that they had experienced some difficulty moving around the site and joining the regular tours of the sites. They expressed interest in finding out which historic sites in Virginia are handicapped accessible. Most of them said they would be more likely to visit a historic site if they knew its staff had addressed their accessibility needs. Many of the questions the respondents would like to ask before they visit a historic site and suggestions they have for historic site staffs who want to make their sites more accessible were used to formulate questions used in the questionnaire that was sent to the historic sites.

The next step (Phase II) was to develop a questionnaire, incorporating data collected from the interviews in Phase I. In order to maximize both the quality and quantity of the participant's responses, a modified version of Dillman's "Total Design Method" was used to create the format for the questionnaire (Dillman, 1978). After the questionnaire was formulated, it was pretested for clarity and accuracy. Then all historic sites in Virginia were identified, and the revised questionnaire was sent to each of the identified sites. The data collected from the questionnaire were tabulated. Only the data on the questionnaires returned from sites open to the public were used in reporting the findings.

After the data were tabulated and interpreted, the information obtained about the accessible features at each site was organized into a directory (Phase III). All sites that returned an answered questionnaire and are open to the public were listed. The handicapped accessible features that exist at each site were specifically noted in the table preceding the directory, and a description of the methods employed to provide accessibility to programs were discussed in the body of the directory.

Data Collection Instrument

In Phase II, the data collection instrument for this study was developed from Dillman's format for mail questionnaires and a review of literature and information collected from interviews with disabled individuals. Usage of a questionnaire was chosen because of the large population to be surveyed.

There were three types of questions used in the survey. The first set of questions were asked in order to find out if the sites meet the criteria of the study. The second set of questions were used to gather the data on handicapped accessible features of the site which promote physical accessibility of the buildings and program accessibility and barriers that exist. The final category of questions involved general information about the sites (time they are open, agencies they are listed with, their location). This information was used in the directory (Phase III). This questionnaire was sent to historic sites to determine (a) if the grounds and primary buildings are accessible, (b) what, if any, adaptations have been made

to the sites and/or the programs to make them accessible, (c) if the sites advertise their accessible features, (d) why some of the historic organizations have not made their sites handicapped accessible, and (e) if there are future plans for making their sites accessible.

Once the questionnaire was completed, it was pretested at 10 historic sites in North Carolina (sites similar to those included in this study). A letter (Appendix B) accompanied the survey cover letter (Appendix C) and questionnaire (Appendix D), explaining why the questionnaire was sent to the North Carolina site and asking for suggestions that might improve the clarity of the cover letter and questionnaire. The researcher was not interested in the actual responses to the questions on the questionnaire, but with the way the questions were answered, so that problem areas in the questionnaire could be identified. The pretest questionnaires were sent out on January 29, 1988. A February 10, 1988 deadline was set for their return.

Observations from the Pretest and Revisions Made to Questionnaire.

Seven out of 10 (70%) of the pretest questionnaires were returned before the February 10, 1988 deadline. One questionnaire was returned after the deadline; the comments on it were included in the pretest observations. Only one respondent stated that his/ her site is a private home, not open to the public.

The pretest was very helpful in identifying problems in the questionnaire. The researcher found that more instructions were

needed so respondents would not answer questions not applicable to them.

Most of the changes needed in the questionnaire were ones of clarification. The order of some of the questions was changed to give a more logical sequence and to elicit a maximum number of answers to the questions.

Identification of Sample

Also in Phase II, all of the historic sites in Virginia that could be identified were used in this study. Virginia was chosen because of its bountiful number of historic sites, including sites dating back to the 17th century. The population of historic sites and their addresses were acquired from lists of National Historic Landmarks and National Trust facilities in Virginia. Additional lists were acquired from the National Register of Historic Places, as well as guidebooks to museums and historic sites in Virginia. The total population included 228 historic sites. The sample used for this study included all identified historic sites in Virginia with these exceptions: (a) historic sites that serve as private homes not open to the public and (b) historic sites with buildings that can be viewed only from the outside.

Collection of Data

After completing the revisions from the pretest questionnaire, a cover letter and a questionnaire (Appendix E) were sent to the curator of each of the 228 historic sites. For authenticity, the cover letter was typed on university letterhead. In order to make it

easier to read and follow, the questionnaire was produced in booklet form. The pages of the questionnaire were typed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch sized paper, then reduced so that two pages would fit on one 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper. Questions were printed on both sides of the pages. The title page of the questionnaire contained the study title, and the name and address of the study sponsor, Virginia Tech. The title page also had an identification number that was used to identify from which site the questionnaire was returned. The final page of the questionnaire contained a thank you and an invitation for further comments. The respondents were also asked if they would like a copy of the survey results.

The questionnaire was sent out on March 1, 1988. A stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanied each questionnaire. A follow-up cover letter (Appendix F) and questionnaire was sent out on March 15, 1988, two weeks after the original mailing, to all respondents who had not returned the questionnaire. The accompanying cover letter restated the basic appeals of the first cover letter with a reminder to return the questionnaire. Those respondents who had returned the first questionnaire were thanked and instructed not to return the second questionnaire. A stamped, self-addressed envelope was also sent with this mailing.

Analysis of Data

To facilitate the analysis process, the data were coded as the questionnaires were returned. The data were first coded on the questionnaires, then entered into the computer. After the data were

coded, they were tabulated into tables, and measured by frequency distributions and percentages. These frequency distributions and percentages were interpreted through comparisons.

Compilation of Directory

The directory (Appendix G) compiled from this study (Phase III), details Virginia historic sites that the researcher found (from the survey) to have handicapped accessible features. All of the sites surveyed in the study that are open to the public were listed in the directory. The sites that have handicapped accessible features are noted in the table of handicapped accessible building features which precedes the body of the directory. Each site entry in the directory contains a brief description of the site, general tourist information (hours, season, etc.) and a brief description of handicapped accessible features. The entries are listed by county or city (if the city is independent), in alphabetical order. This directory was developed to encourage disabled individuals to visit historic sites that are handicapped accessible.

Chapter V

Data and Data Evaluation

Description of Collected Data

The research questionnaire was sent to 228 historic sites in Virginia. The return rate was 167 questionnaires (73.24%). Fifty (21.93%) of the sites failed to respond to the survey, and 10 (4.39%) of these questionnaires were returned in the mail having never reached their destination. One questionnaire (0.43%) was returned because it was addressed to a site that another questionnaire was sent to, under a different name.

Respondents included 147 sites (64.47%) that are open to the public and 20 (8.77%) that are not open to the public. The sites that are open to the public differ in the amount of time that they are open: some year round, some seasonally, and others just for special occasions. A few of the sites that are not open to the public are private homes or private offices. One site is a private country club, another a public school. Neither site is normally open for the public to tour. The following findings and observations were drawn only from the 147 questionnaires returned from the historic sites open to the public.

Even though the cover letter and questionnaire sent to each site were addressed to the site's curator, the survey was not necessarily filled out by someone in this position. The respondent's title,

however, was usually given on the survey form. Seventy-five (51.02%) of the respondents were in positions of highest authority at the site, such as site curators, directors, chief coordinators, managers, superintendents, administrators or presidents. Nine (6.12%) of the respondents were assistant or associate curators or directors. Seven of the respondents (4.76%) were interns. At six of the churches (4.08% of the total, 40.00% of the churches), the rector, minister or warden responded to the questionnaire; an assistant rector or assistant warden responded from two sites (1.36% of the total, 13.33% of the churches). In three cases (2.04%) the individual who is in charge of working with special populations responded to the questionnaire. The remaining questionnaires were completed by individuals connected with the historical societies of the sites (9 or 6.12%), secretaries (7 or 4.76%), tour coordinators (1 or 0.68%), hostesses (2 or 1.36%), park rangers (2 or 1.36%) and other individuals involved with the operations of the sites (12 or 8.16%). The respondents varied in their ability to answer the questions due to their differing experience and knowledge about the site.

Respondents were asked to identify which, if any, buildings at their site are open to the public. Out of the total number of respondents (147) returning the questionnaire from sites open to the public, only one site's primary historic building are not open to the public. This site's grounds and one of its other buildings is open to the public; therefore the site was retained in the sample.

Forty (27.21%) of the respondents confirmed that the primary

historic building on their site is physically accessible to all people regardless of any physical limitations they may have. Of these sites, 11 (27.50%) have made no alterations to their primary historic building. On the other hand, 26 sites (65.00%) have made alterations to their primary historic building in order to make it physically accessible to all people. Four (10.00%) of the sites that stated that their primary historic building is accessible to all people, left the question unanswered.

The respondents at the 106 sites (72.11%) where the primary historic building is not accessible to all people, were asked to explain what barriers exist that prevent accessibility. Of this population, respondents from nine sites (8.49%) stated that their grounds have uneven or earthen paths that would limit someone with a walking or visual disability. Uneven sidewalks or walkways made of stone or brick exist at 40 (37.74%) of the sites. Eighty-eight (83.02%) of the sites have steps leading up to the building. Doorways are too narrow and/or thresholds at the doors are too high to be easily accessible for some disabled visitors at 33 sites (31.13%).

Ten of the primary historic buildings that are not accessible to everyone (9.43%) have varying floor levels. In four (3.77%) of these primary historic buildings, the halls are too narrow or the rooms are too small to be easily accessible to all disabled visitors. Seventy-nine (74.53%) of these sites have a second floor that is only accessible by stairs. One respondent (9.43%) cited bad lighting as a barrier to the site.

Respondents were asked to identify certain features that presently exist at their historic sites that help promote the accessibility of each building. In many cases two or all three buildings on the sites (primary historic building, secondary historic building, and visitor center) share the same feature. For a list of handicapped accessible features existing in each of the buildings at the historic sites, see Table 1. Twenty (13.61) of the historic sites have a wheelchair that can be used by visitors who need it to tour their sites. Shuttle bus service or something comparable is provided at five (3.40%) of the sites.

The question concerning certain features that promote handicapped accessibility proved to be a bit difficult for some of the respondents to answer. Many of the respondents skipped parts of the question. Blank answers could mean that the feature was not needed at the site, it did not exist, or the respondent did not understand what was being asked. On many of the questionnaires, the building category (PHB, AHB, VC) was not specified; sometimes making it difficult for the researcher to code the answers. If this information was obtainable from the brochures sent by respondents or answers to other questions on the survey, the researcher inserted the building category/ categories for each building feature.

At sites with a primary building open to the public, 68 (46.26%) reported having secondary historic buildings also open for viewing. One site (0.68%) has a secondary buildings open for viewing, but not the primary historic building. Table 2 illustrates the number of

Table 1

Handicapped Accessible* Features Existing in the Buildings of the
Historic Sites.

Handicapped Accessible Feature	PHB** No. of Sites (%)	SHB** No. of Sites (%)	VC** No. of Sites (%)
Designated handicapped parking space	47 (31.97)	20 (13.61)	27 (18.37)
Signs directing disabled individuals to accessible entrance	13 (8.84)	4 (2.72)	15 (10.20)
Smooth, firm walkways, in good repair, around the grounds and up to building	87 (59.18)	34 (23.13)	30 (20.41)
Steps marked by contrasting materials	20 (13.61)	4 (2.72)	8 (5.44)
Handrails at steps	77 (52.38)	16 (10.88)	20 (13.61)
Permanent ramp at:			
front	7 (4.76)	6 (4.08)	16 (10.88)
side	10 (6.80)	5 (3.40)	2 (1.36)
back	10 (6.80)	3 (2.04)	9 (6.12)

* Accessible to the mobility impaired.

** PHB - Primary Historic Building SHB - Secondary Historic Building
VC - Visitor Center.

Table 1 (Continued)

Handicapped Accessible Feature	PHB* No. of Sites (%)	SHB* No. of Sites (%)	VC* No. of Sites (%)
Temporary ramp at:			
front	12 (8.16)	4 (2.72)	2 (1.36)
side	2 (1.36)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
back	3 (2.04)	1 (0.68)	0 (0.00)
Ramp with nonskid surface	23 (15.65)	7 (4.76)	20 (13.61)
Handrails at ramps	15 (10.20)	6 (4.08)	16 (10.88)
Exterior lift	3 (2.04)	1 (0.68)	2 (1.36)
Wide doorway (36" wide)	90 (61.22)	27 (18.37)	29 (19.73)
Ramped threshold	19 (12.93)	7 (4.76)	9 (6.12)
Rugs and carpets secured to the floor	48 (32.65)	12 (8.16)	19 (12.93)
Added elevator	3 (2.04)	3 (2.04)	5 (3.40)
Restored existing elevator	9 (6.12)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
Added stair lift/ stair-trac	2 (1.36)	1 (0.68)	0 (0.00)
Proper lighting in all areas of building	100 (68.03)	35 (23.81)	35 (23.81)
Points of Interest clearly marked	76 (51.70)	29 (19.73)	27 (18.37)

*PHB - Primary Historic Building SHB - Secondary Historic Building
VC - Visitor Center.

Table 1 (Continued)

Handicapped Accessible Feature	PHB* No. of Sites (%)	SHB* No. of Sites (%)	VC* No. of Sites (%)
Handicapped accessible rest rooms, phone, water fountains	31 (21.09)	18 (12.24)	26 (17.69)

*PHB - Primary Historic Building SHB - Secondary Historic Building
VC - Visitor Center.

Table 2

Number of Handicapped Accessible* Secondary Historic Buildings** at Sites.

Number of Sites with at least One Secondary Historic Building	Number of Handicapped Accessible Secondary Historic Buildings at Each Site	Percentage (%)
19	1	27.54
15	***	21.74
10	0	14.49
10	2	14.49
7	3	10.14
3	4	4.35
2	5	2.90
1	7	1.45
1	9	1.45
1	16	1.45
	69	

* Accessible to the mobility impaired.

** Historic buildings other than the primary historic building.

*** The respondents from these sites did not indicate whether or not any of their secondary historic buildings are handicapped accessible.

secondary historic buildings at these sites that are handicapped accessible. A little over a fourth of the historic sites (37) have a visitor center; 31 (83.78%) of the visitor centers are handicapped accessible.

When asked if the site's programs have been adjusted in order to make them handicapped accessible, 33 (22.45%) of the respondents stated that they have made site adjustments. Some of the adjustments that have been made include:

1. Guide adjusts the normal tour to meet the needs of the visitor or to give a disabled person assistance (9 sites/ 6.12%).
2. Site provides interpretive literature (3 sites/ 2.04%).
3. Classes or programs are offered in an accessible building or area (16 sites/ 10.88%).
4. Hands-on tours are available (2 sites/ 1.36%).
5. Audiovisual tours are available (1 site/ 0.68%).
6. Historic talks or programs are offered outside (2 sites/ 1.36%).
7. Special seating or parking is made available during special events (1 site/ 0.68%).

Two sites also have outreach programs, where someone from the site shows a visual program (slides or videotape) at a location away from the site.

Fifty-three (36.05%) of the sites offer an alternative means of "viewing" the grounds and its buildings. Large pictures are available for visitors to view at 22 (41.51%) of these sites. Eighteen (33.96%)

of these historic sites offer a videotape tour and 20 (37.74%) offer a slide presentation to visitors who cannot tour their entire property. Seven (13.21%) of these sites have dioramas and 10 (18.87%) have models that help visitors better understand and appreciate the history of the their site. Other methods of "viewing" the site that respondents mentioned are: scrapbooks, braille guides, audio-programs and site folders that offer pictures and text to describe the site. The primary historic building is where 27 (50.94%) of these sites offer their alternative means of "viewing" their facilities. Fourteen (26.42%) of the sites offer alternative means of "viewing" their grounds and buildings in a secondary historic building on the property; 13 (24.53%) offer it in their handicapped accessible visitor center, while 14 (26.85%) offer it at a location away from the site.

Thirty-eight (25.85%) of the respondents said that disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit. In many cases this is probably so that someone on staff at the site will be available to assist the disabled person, or so that they will have their temporary ramp set up before the disabled visitor arrives at the site.

Special tours are offered to disabled visitors at 42 (28.57%) of the sites. Fifty-eight (39.46%) of the sites are listed as being accessible or having handicapped accessible features noted in information made available to the public, such as the following:

1. House brochures (17 or 11.56% of sites).
2. Local or county literature (5 or 3.40% of sites).

3. National Park of United States Department of the Interior literature (2 or 1.36% of sites).

4. Virginia Division of Tourism or other state literature (43 or 29.25% of sites).

5. Magazines or advertising (4 or 2.72% of sites).

6. AAA literature (1 or 0.68% of sites).

Thirty (75.00%) of the respondents who said their sites are physically accessible to all people, also said that their sites are listed as being handicapped accessible, but 10 (25.00%) of the respondents who stated that their sites are accessible to all people stated that their sites are not listed in information available to the public as being handicapped accessible. There are 27 sites (18.37%) that respondents consider not physically accessible to all people but are listed by tourist organizations as being handicapped accessible. Perhaps their contradiction comes from the way the respondents and tourist organizations define handicapped accessible. For example, historic sites with an accessible feature such as handicapped accessible rest rooms are sometimes misleadingly listed as being handicapped accessible.

There is a staff member with a physical handicap at 20 (13.61%) of the sites. Eight (40.00%) of the sites that have a disabled staff member consider themselves to be handicapped accessible. The other 12 sites (60.00%) with a disabled staff member are not accessible.

Sixty-three (42.86%) of the sites have a staff member who is responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. A

disabled individual needs to make advanced arrangements before visiting 25 (39.68%) of the sites that have a staff member responsible for resolving any accessibility problems. No advanced notice is needed at the other 38 sites (60.32%) with a staff member who has this duty. Special tours are offered at 29 (26.03%) of the sites with a staff member appointed to resolve handicapped accessibility problems, but no special tours are offered at the other 34 sites (53.97%) with a staff member appointed to resolve problems disabled visitors may have. Twenty-four (16.33%) of the sites have invited handicapped individuals and/or agencies that serve them to advise them in improving their sites' accessibility to disabled visitors.

The respondents were asked to answer yes or no to a list of reasons which have possibly prevented them from making their primary historic buildings handicapped accessible. They were also welcomed to add any other reasons which have prevented accessibility from being achieved at their sites. Seven reasons were listed on the questionnaire; the respondents added three additional reasons. For a list of these reasons and a count of the respondents stating each reason, see Table 3.

Forty-eight (32.65%) of the respondents state that their sites plan to make alterations in the programs and/ or activities going on in their historic buildings and/ or to the physical structure of their historic buildings in order to make their facilities more accessible to the disabled. A ramp, either permanent or temporary, is planned for the primary historic building of 20 (41.67%) of these sites. A

Table 3

Reasons Historic Organizations Have Not Made Buildings
Handicapped Accessible*.

Reason	N	<u>Responses</u>	Percentage (%)
Alterations structurally impossible/ difficult	84		57.14
Too expensive	65		44.22
Not enough interest from disabled individuals	53		36.05
Insufficient staff	45		30.61
State and local governments not interested	14		9.53
Not feasible in keeping with architectural significance and design of the structure	13		8.84
Issue has not come up	5		3.40
Funding is not available	4		2.27
Need more information and education	3		2.04
Not interested	1		0.68

* Accessible to the mobility impaired.

lift is planned for the primary building at two sites (4.17%), stair-trac at one (2.08%) and an elevator at two (4.17%). One site (2.08%) is considering putting together a tour guide in braille. Videotaping the tour, printing large pictures or taking slides of the historic buildings to show individuals who cannot participate in the entire tour of the site is being planned for 12 (25.00%) of these sites. Two sites (4.17%) plan to build a new visitor center that will be handicapped accessible. New handicapped accessible rest room facilities are going to be built at four sites (8.33%). One site (2.08%) is putting together a folder on handicapped accessibility; one (2.08%) is developing a tour for the disabled. Eleven sites (22.92%) indicated that they plan to include handicapped accessibility in their next phase of restoration. New museum building(s) that will be handicapped accessible are being built at three sites (6.25%). One site (2.08%) is planning to designate a parking space for disabled visitors.

The respondents were asked to give an estimate of the number of physically disabled individuals who visit their sites each year. Eighteen (12.24%) of the respondents gave no answer (15 skipped the question, three gave unusable data). Table 4 illustrates the responses from the remaining respondents. One site said that accurate attendance records were not kept. In fact this question was skipped by 15 respondents (10.20%), perhaps indicating that they have no idea how many disabled individuals visit the site each year. The correlation between respondents reporting that their sites are

Table 4

Estimated Number of Physically Handicapped Individuals that Visit the Sites Each Year.

Estimated Number of Disabled Visitors	N	Percentage (%)
0	16	10.88
1 - 10	52	35.37
11 - 25	29	19.73
26 - 50	12	8.16
50+	20	13.61
	<u>129</u>	

handicapped accessible and the estimated number of disabled visitors that visit the sites each year is as follows: 10 respondents (25.00%) reported more than 50 disabled visitors, 7 respondents (17.50%) reported 26 to 50 disabled visitors, 10 respondents (25.00%) reported 11 to 25 disabled visitors, 8 respondents (20.00%) reported 1 to 10 disabled visitors, and 3 respondents (7.50%) reported no disabled visitors.

Respondents were asked which organizations that register or administer historic sites lists their sites. Table 5 illustrates their responses.

Respondents from 30 (25.21%) of the 119 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places stated that their primary historic buildings are physically accessible to everyone. Of the 127 sites that are listed as Virginia Historic Landmarks, only 30 (23.62%) of the respondents stated that the primary historic building is handicapped accessible. Nineteen (27.54%) of the primary historic buildings listed as National Historic Landmarks are considered physically accessible to all people. One (20.00%) of the primary historic buildings belonging to the National Trust is considered to be physically accessible to all people, and none of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities' primary historic buildings are physically accessible to all individuals who may want to visit. More than half (7 or 53.85%) of the primary historic buildings administered by the National Park Service are physically accessible to all people. Nine (19.57%) of the primary historic buildings listed on

Table 5

Organizations Which List and/ or Administer the Historic Sites

Organization	N	<u>Responses</u>	Percentage (%)
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	127		86.40
National Register of Historic Places	119		80.95
National Historic Landmarks Commission	69		46.94
Historic American Buildings Survey	46		31.26
National Park Service	13		8.84
Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities	12		8.16
National Trust for Historic Preservation	5		3.40
National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks	1		0.68
Landmarks of Agricultural Engineering	1		0.68

the Historic American Buildings Survey are handicapped accessible.

One hundred and ten (74.83%) of the surveyed historic sites receive no federal funding. Only 11 sites (7.48%) receive all of their funding from federal agencies, six sites (4.08%) receive 20% or less, and one site (0.68%) receives about 80%. One hundred and two (69.39%) of the respondents stated that their sites receive no funding from state agencies. Four respondents (2.72%) indicated that their sites received all their funding from state agencies. Fourteen (9.52%) of the sites receive all of their funding from local agencies, while 92 (62.59%) receive no local funding at all. Private beneficiaries give total financial support to 46 (31.29%) of the sites. Two sites (1.36%) receive a majority of their funding from trusts that were set up by former owners or beneficiaries. Some sites also receive part of their funding from additional sources such as membership dues, rental fees, fund raising and products sold on the site.

Whether or not a site receives federal funding seems to make no difference in whether or not the primary historic building is physically accessible. Five (45.45%) of the sites receiving 100% of their funding from federal agencies (11 sites) consider their primary historic buildings to be physically accessible to all people, six (54.55%) do not.

When asked what percentages of their sites' funding comes from federal, state or local agencies or from private beneficiaries, 19 respondents (12.93%) did not respond. In fact, this

was the question most often skipped in the survey. It seems that either the respondents do not have a clear picture of where their funding is coming from, or they do not want their funding sources made public knowledge.

Thirteen (8.84%) of the sites have received funds, specified for use in making their facilities handicapped accessible, from federal and/or state agencies. The National Endowment for the Humanities has granted funds to several historic buildings (all on the Williamsburg site) for the development of second floor interpretations (through the use of alternative means of "viewing") of the buildings. The National Park Service has given three sites (2.04%) funds for handicapped accessibility as part of their operating budget. The State of Virginia has funded handicapped accessibility projects at two sites (1.36%) through state appointed grants. At one site (0.68%), the county has granted a site an amount of money to videotape the tour of the primary historic building's second floor and the site's dependencies.

A majority of the sites that were surveyed are open for tourism (134 sites or 91.15%). Fifteen (10.20%) of the sites are private homes that are open certain times of the year for tourism. Organizational meetings are held at 65 (44.22%) of the sites. Thirty-two (21.77%) of the sites are maintained for business purposes (shop, bank, restaurant). Thirteen (8.84%) of the sites are churches. Twenty-five (17.01%) of the sites are being used for what they were originally built. Other activities going on at these sites include:

weddings (23 or 15.65% of the sites); teas (13 or 8.84% of the sites); conventions or seminars (11 or 7.48% of the sites); receptions (41 or 27.89% of the sites); parties, dinners or luncheons (19 or 12.93% of the sites); educational programs or lectures (10 or 6.80% of the sites); exhibit openings or art centers (7 or 4.76% of the sites); and plays or operas (5 or 3.40% of the sites). A couple (1.36%) of sites are used as libraries. One historic site (0.68%) is used as a recreation center.

Most of the historic sites (83 or 56.46% of the sites) are in independent cities. Richmond, an independent city with 14 (9.52%) sites, leads as the city with the most historic sites open to the public. Alexandria has 12 sites (8.16%); Williamsburg has nine sites (6.12%); Fredericksburg has eight sites (5.44%); Lynchburg has six sites (4.08%); and Petersburg has five sites (3.40%). The counties with the most historic sites are Fairfax with nine (6.12%) and Charles City with six (4.08%)

The majority (70 or 47.62%) of primary historic buildings surveyed were built in the 18th century. Most of the buildings (45 or 30.61%) were built between 1750 and 1799. The primary historic buildings of four (2.72%) of the sites were built within the past 38 years. These primary buildings were included in the study because they are architecturally significant or there are secondary buildings on the same sites as these buildings that have historic value. Table 6 shows the year intervals during which the primary historic building at the sites were built. Two (1.36%) of the respondents did not answer the

Table 6

Year Intervals During Which the Primary Historic Buildings Were Built.

Year Interval	N	Responses
		Percentage (%)
1650 - 1699	4	2.72
1700 - 1749	25	17.01
1750 - 1799	45	30.61
1800 - 1849	36	24.49
1850 - 1899	16	10.88
1900 - 1949	15	10.20
1950 - 2000	4	2.72
	<u>147</u>	

question.

Categorization of Data

After analyzing all the information that was given by the respondents, it was found that the pool of historic sites used in this survey can be divided into three categories based on the primary function of the site. The first category contains those sites that are used for business purposes, such as shops, offices, banks, theatres, restaurants, and hotels. There are 12 sites that fall into this category. The respondents from 6 (50.00%) of these sites stated that their primary historic building is handicapped accessible. The second category contains those sites that provide services to the public, such as a church, library, art center, recreation center, fire station, or research center. There are 20 sites that fall into this category; 13 (65.00%) of these sites' primary historic buildings are used as churches. The respondents from nine (45.00%) of these sites stated that their primary historic building is accessible to all people.

The third category of historic sites are primarily open for prearranged tours. The majority of the primary buildings at these sites are historically significant themselves, as well as their contents. One hundred and fifteen sites fall into this category. This category can be divided into two groups: (a) those sites that are open year round or during summer months (96 or 83.48% of the sites) and (b) those sites that are open by appointment only, such as during Historic Garden Week or only a couple of days a week for a couple of

hours each day (19 or 16.52% of the sites). Only one (5.26%) of the respondents from the sites that are open by appointment only or for a short period of time during the year said that his site is accessible to all people. Of the 96 respondents whose sites are open year round or during the summer, 24 (25.00%) stated that their sites are accessible to all people.

The six of the historic buildings open year round or for several months at a time and are physically accessible to all people are theatres, offices, and a hotel. The hotel has made, like many modern hotels, accommodations for disabled visitors, such as adding handicapped accessible rest room facilities. Two of the offices are physically accessible to the disabled; both contain governmental offices. Both buildings have handicapped accessible rest rooms and ramped entrances. The two buildings that are used as offices but are not accessible to everyone house church offices. Three of the four theatres in this category are physically accessible to everyone, but only one of the theatres has handicapped accessible rest room facilities.

The nine historic buildings in the second category, which respondents have claimed to be physically accessible to all people, are churches, a library, and a recreation center. The recreation center has two ramped entrances, as well as a designated parking space for disabled visitors and signs to direct them to the ramped entrances. Only one of the libraries is handicapped accessible. It possesses accessible features such as a designated parking space for

disabled visitors, signs directing these visitors to the front ramped entrance and handicapped accessible rest room facilities.

The respondents from seven (53.85%) of the 13 church buildings in the survey stated that their buildings are physically accessible to all people. Five of these have a designated parking space for disabled individuals; four have a wheelchair available in the building. Five of the church buildings have a ramped entrance; two use a temporary ramp to provide access to disabled visitors. One of the other handicapped accessible church buildings uses an exterior lift to provide access, and another has a ground level entrance. Two of the churches provide handicapped accessible rest rooms. Three of the church facilities that are not considered physically accessible to everyone have a parking space designated for disabled visitors.

As stated earlier, 24 of the respondents whose sites are open for tours all year or during the summer months claim that their sites are accessible to everyone. Fourteen of these sites have handicapped accessible rest rooms; 11 have designated parking spaces for the disabled. Four sites have signs that direct visitors to the handicapped accessible entrance. Five sites have an elevator which makes their second floor accessible to the disabled. One site possesses a stair-trac which makes entrance into its primary historic building possible to the wheelchair-bound visitor. A temporary ramp is used at five sites in order to allow entrance into the historic building; 13 have a permanent ramp. Three of the 24 respondents in this portion of the survey did not identify any handicapped accessible

features, so their handicapped accessibility can be questioned.

Many of the other sites considered not accessible to all people have some handicapped accessible features. Sixteen of these sites have parking designated for disabled visitors, five have a wheelchair available to visitors, and three have signs directing visitors to the primary historic building's accessible entrance. Nine primary historic buildings house handicapped accessible rest rooms and three have an elevator. Accessibility to two primary historic buildings is made possible by an exterior lift. Four buildings have a permanent ramp, and 11 have a temporary ramp, which make them accessible to disabled visitors.

Only one respondent whose site is open only a short period of time during the year considers the site accessible to everyone. All of the site's buildings are on ground level. Four other historic sites that fall into this category provide designated parking for disabled visitors.

Of the sites used for business purposes, one hotel has a special tour for disabled visitors. At the hotel and at two of the buildings used as offices, there is a staff member responsible for resolving any problems disabled visitors may have touring the building. In the category of historic sites that provide a service to the public, one church building, two library buildings, and one building used as a recreation center have special tours for disabled visitors. Four of the theatres, four of the church buildings, one of the library buildings and one building used as an art center have a staff member

who is responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Of the historic buildings used primarily for tourism and open only a short period of time during the year (third category), three provide a special tour for disabled visitors. Five other sites in this same group have a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

At 33 sites where the historic buildings are open year round or during the summer months, special tours are available for disabled visitors. Forty-six of these have a staff member who is responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Only the sites that are open for tourism and open much of the year have made adjustments to their programs in order to make them more accessible to disabled visitors. Thirty-two sites have made these adjustments. Programs and classes are held in an handicapped accessible area at 10 sites. At six sites guides make adjustments to the normal tour in order for disabled visitors to tour their buildings. Two sites offer hands-on tours for visually-impaired visitors, and an audio-tour is offered to these visitors at one site. A lecture tour is available at five sites to visitors who cannot take the regular tour of the buildings.

A few of the sites that are used for business or services offer alternative means of "viewing" their properties. One of the stores has postcards, which show the interior of the building, available for visitors who cannot enter the building. One of the churches has photographs available of the interior of its building. Three churches

have slides of their buildings available for alternative means of "viewing". One church has a display of artifacts that can enhance the disabled visitors' trip to the site.

The sites that offer the most alternative means of "viewing" are those primarily used for tourism. Three sites that are open for short periods of time or by appointment use alternative means of "viewing". One site uses a video, another uses slides, another uses large photographs and another uses an illustrated tour guide.

Many historic sites that are open year round or seasonally use alternative means of "viewing" their sites in order to enhance the visit of their disabled visitors, as well as able-bodied visitors. The most frequently employed alternative means of "viewing" is the use of large photographs (18 sites) to illustrate the tour and the historic buildings' notable features. Sixteen sites show slides of their tour and 14 show a video.

Nine sites have models which illustrate the layout of the site and its historical significance; seven sites use a diorama for these purposes. Two sites have a display of artifacts and two have window displays which illustrate the history of the sites. Several means for alternative "viewing" of a site have been designed especially for disabled visitors. One site has a scrapbook which illustrates the history of the site available to those visitors who cannot participate in the regular tour. Three sites offer a touch-tour, one provides an audio-tape tour, and another has a braille tour guide for blind visitors.

When analyzing the sites that are used as business (category 1) to find out where handicapped accessible sites are getting their funding, it was found that a majority of the funding the six totally accessible sites get comes from sources other than federal, state and local agencies or private beneficiaries. Their funding probably comes from business revenue, since these sites are used for business purposes. Although most of the sites in this group receive their funding from profits made at the sites, the two sites that are used as offices get all of their funding from other sources; one gets funding entirely from state agencies, the other entirely from private agencies. All of the handicapped accessible sites that provide a service to the public get their funding entirely from private beneficiaries. This is not surprising considering a majority of the sites in this category are church properties.

Of the 24 sites that are primarily used for tourism and totally accessible to everyone, 14 get all of their funding from one source, either federal, state or local agencies or private beneficiaries. Eleven respondents stated that their sites are totally funded by the a federal agency; five (45.45%) of these are accessible to everyone. All of the sites in this category are used primarily for tourism. Four sites in the survey are totally funded by a state agency. One of these is handicapped accessible and falls into the category of being open primarily for tourism. Four sites (28.57% of the total population) in the third category are funded totally by local agencies and are accessible to everyone. There are 47 sites in the survey that

are funded entirely by private agencies. Four of these (11.50%) are accessible to everyone and used primarily for tourism.

Chapter VI

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

Summary

Presently there is very little information on which historic sites in the state of Virginia are accessible to the disabled. Since Virginia is a state rich with history, particularly architectural history, and the number of disabled people in the United States is increasing each year, examining the handicapped accessibility of Virginia's historic sites is very timely. The primary goal of this study was to determine how owners of historic sites in Virginia are responding to the issue of handicapped accessibility at their properties. The secondary goal of this study was to compile a list of historic sites in Virginia, and to specify which handicapped accessible features exist at these sites.

Guidelines established by the United States Department of the Interior have resolved much of the conflict between the laws involving handicapped accessibility of public buildings and historic preservation. These guidelines, as well as guidelines and suggestions presented by experts on accessibility as it applies to historic preservation, resolve much of the dilemma facing historic societies wanting to make their properties accessible to everyone and desiring to preserve the historic and architectural character of their historic sites. Funding for structural alterations in historic

buildings is available to historic sites through governmental agencies, foundations and individual donors. Studies concerning handicapped accessibility of historic buildings have been done by the National Trust, Alice P. Kenney, and Charles Parrott. These studies provide guidelines and suggestions for sites desiring to make changes to their facilities that would make them more accessible to everyone.

Phase I of this study involved interviewing disabled people in order to understand the problems they have encountered when visiting historic sites. Their questions and suggestions involving the physical accessibility of historic sites were incorporated into the questionnaire (Phase II) of this study. Phase II involved developing the questionnaire and identifying historical sites in Virginia that were potentially open to the public. The questionnaire was pretested by respondents from historic sites in North Carolina. After the questionnaire was revised, it was sent to the survey population. The data were tabulated, interpreted and categorized.

Two hundred and twenty-eight historic sites were identified for the study. Historic sites that are used as private homes and are not open to the public, and historic sites with buildings that can only be viewed from the outside were not used in the sample. Questionnaires were returned from 147 sites open to the public and 20 not open to the public, for a total of 167 returned questionnaires or 73.24%.

It was found that only a little over a fourth of the respondents surveyed state that their historic sites are physically accessible to all people. At sites that are not accessible to everyone, the

most common barriers are steps at the entrance to the buildings and second floors accessible only by a flight of stairs.

Almost all of the sites surveyed have at least one handicapped accessible feature in their primary historic building, such as a wide doorway entrance (Many historic buildings were originally built with wide doorways). Many of the sites have secondary historic buildings and visitor centers which house handicapped accessible rest rooms and the sites' alternative means of "viewing" the site. The most commonly used method of providing alternative means of "viewing" the site are the provision of large photographs, slides, and video programs of the sites' tours and the interiors of the sites' buildings. A majority of sites that offer these alternative means of "viewing" present them in their primary historic building.

Over a third of the sites are listed in information available to the public as having handicapped accessible features. Most of the sites receive 1 to 25 handicapped visitors a year, but only a little over a fourth of the sites provide a special tour for disabled visitors. Close to half of the sites have a staff member who is responsible for resolving any problems disabled visitors may have visiting the sites.

The two main reasons sites have not been made handicapped accessible are (a) alterations are structurally impossible or difficult and (b) alterations would be too expensive. A third of the sites have future plans to make their buildings handicapped accessible. Structural changes, alternative means of "viewing"

programs and new buildings are planned in order to make these buildings handicapped accessible.

Many historic sites are listed with more than one organization registering historic sites. Most of the sites surveyed in this study are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as Virginia Historic Landmarks, but only a small percentage of them are handicapped accessible. Over half of the historic sites administered by the National Park Service (a federal agency) are handicapped accessible.

Most of the sites get their funding from a combination of federal, state and local agencies and private beneficiaries. Half of the sites receiving all federal funding are handicapped accessible. It appears that the sites that are administered by a federal agency and receive federal funding are more likely to be handicapped accessible. Only a small portion of the sites receive federal or state funds specified for use in making the properties handicapped accessible.

A vast majority of the sites are open for tourism. Many of these as well as the remaining sites are used for meetings, business purposes (banks, stores), weddings, teas, art exhibits or seminars. Most of the primary historic buildings were built during the late 18th century.

The final phase (Phase III) of the study involved developing a directory. This directory included a table which identifies accessible features that exist at each of the historic sites, a description of the historic significance of the sites and general

tourist information (addresses phone number, schedule of opening). Additional information that a disabled person might desire to know before visiting any of the Virginia sites was also included in the body of the directory.

Conclusions

Like Alice P. Kenney's 1979 museum study in Southeastern Pennsylvania, the present research involved looking at what is being done to provide accessibility to disabled people at historic sites. Parts of the questionnaire developed for this study were inspired by the Kenney study. Kenney found that a number of historic sites in her study have well-developed programming for disabled persons. This is also true at some of the Virginia sites, especially the more visited sites. Unlike the Virginia study, Kenney's research did not involve historic buildings only. Some of the museum buildings she surveyed are new and are used to house museum articles. Therefore, many of the accessible features reported in her study are possibly found in the new buildings.

More historic sites in Virginia have invited the disabled to advise them in making their sites more accessible than in Pennsylvania, perhaps indicating a stronger concern for handicapped accessibility today than 10 years ago. As in the sites in Pennsylvania, very few of the historic sites in Virginia advertise their handicapped accessible features. The only mention of services for the disabled in many cases is in the sites' in-house brochures.

Disabled people have a need to know what is being done for their

sector of the population. Since historic sites have typically been inaccessible to the disabled in the past, information about what historic sites are doing to make their properties accessible should be disseminate to the disabled. Some historic buildings were originally built with handicapped accessible features, and many sites have made alterations to their buildings and/ or programs to make them more accessible to the disabled. Once disabled individuals know which sites' buildings have handicapped accessible features and which sites offer alternative means of "viewing" the site to disabled visitors, disabled individuals will be encouraged to visit the sites.

As can be expected, the sites that are primarily used for tours and are open much of the year are doing more to make their buildings and programs handicapped accessible. These sites are more likely to have handicapped accessible visitor centers, temporary ramps at the primary historic buildings and "alternative tours" somewhere at the site. It seems that the staff at most of the sites have thought about the accessibility of their properties to the disabled. Perhaps this issue has come to mind because some of the sites have been unable to accommodate potential visitors due to their sites not being totally accessible.

Most of the respondents did not state that a lack of funding was a deterrent to making their sites handicapped accessible. The main reason the historic sites have not been made accessible is the expense. This could mean that the funds are not available or that the respondents do not feel that handicapped accessibility is important

enough to invest their funds. The respondents may also believe that it cost too much to make alterations to the buildings that would make them accessible to everyone.

The disabled need to be made aware of the responsibility historic organizations have in preserving their properties, and historic site staff members need to be made aware of the needs of the disabled. Many disabled individuals do not understand the responsibility historic sites have to preserve the historic authenticity of their properties. Some of these disabled individuals do not understand that to make most historic buildings totally physically accessible would mean permanently destroying part of the building's architectural history. The disabled population needs to make more demands for accessibility, but they also need to understand that all historic buildings cannot be made totally accessible to them.

More education on the disabled and their needs is necessary for the staff of historic sites. Many staff members at historic sites feel that the only way they can make their sites accessible to disabled visitors is to make physical alterations to their buildings which would harm their historical material. In most cases total physical accessibility of the historic buildings will never be achieved, because too much alteration to the historic composition of the building would be needed. A temporary ramp, however, is a building alteration that would not destroy historic building materials; it can be used in many cases to make the first floor of a historic building handicapped accessible.

With advances in mechanical technology, disabled people are becoming more independent and more transient each year. In addition, the elderly sector of the population, who make up a good portion of the disabled population, increases in number each year. Since disabled individuals are becoming more independent and the elderly population is increasing, there will be a greater need for buildings open to the public to be handicapped accessible. Many elderly people as well as younger people who are disabled, who have the time and money to travel, are interested in history. For this reason, they are likely to be interested in visiting historic sites. Since Virginia is rich in history, the disabled may be particularly interested in visiting its historic sites. Therefore, in the future there will be more of a demand for historic sites to be accessible to the disabled. New ideas may need to be explored that will help make historic buildings handicapped accessible.

Recommendations

In a future study, site visits by the primary researcher or someone trained by the primary researcher would be recommended. The questionnaire developed in this study could be used to collect information on the handicapped accessibility of the historic sites. For greater consistency in obtaining answers and more conclusive information, the individual visiting the site could answer the questions on the survey. Plus, by visiting the historic sites, data can be collected from many of the sites that did not return the questionnaire sent out for this study.

Another study may involve the researcher visiting several of the sites surveyed in the study with a disabled person. This type of study would provide first hand experience of the problems disabled individuals have when touring these sites. Since the data collected in this study would be based on one disabled person's experience with accessibility, there will be more accuracy in comparing one site to another. This would also provide the researcher with a true test of how these sites react to and accommodate disabled visitors.

There may not be a comprehensive list of historic sites in other states that are handicapped accessible or have handicapped accessible features. The procedure used in this study to develop the directory of Virginia historic sites and their handicapped accessible features could be used in order to do the same for other states. Since travel typically is not confined to state boundaries, there is a need for the development of a catalog of historic sites with handicapped accessible features on a national scale. Again, the procedure used to develop the directory for Virginia could be used on a national scale.

It seems today that many able-bodied people have not given much thought to handicapped accessibility. A study could be developed that would determine how much public concern there is toward this subject. A program could be developed that would make people more aware of the needs of disabled individuals. Articles concerning disabled individuals and physical barriers could be published in newspapers or journals/ magazines that would reach many people. Special interest

stories about the disabled and how they have overcome many barriers could be reported on television and radio programs. The premise of this study would be that the more people know about handicapped accessibility, the more support and involvement they would give to issues concerning accessibility to the disabled.

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Appendix A

Form for the Interview with Disabled Individuals

Appendix A

Form for the Interview with Handicapped Individuals

1. Have you visited a historic site, like Monticello or Mount Vernon?

1. yes

2. no

If "yes", which ones?

If "no", why not?

(Go to question 5)

2. Did you experience trouble:

a. getting from the parking lot to the building?

1. yes (if "yes", please explain)

2. no

b. entering the building?

1. yes (if "yes", please explain)

2. no

c. getting around inside of building?

1. yes (if "yes", please explain)

2. no

3. Have you visited an historic site where you could not enter or participate in the tour?

1. yes

2. no

4. Did the facility offer a purely visual tour through the use of a movie, slide show, pictures, etc.?

1. yes

2. no

If "yes", which method of visual tour?

And where?

5. Are you interested in finding out which Virginia historic sites make their buildings or tour programs accessible?

1. yes

2. no

6. Would you be more likely to visit a historic site if you knew in advance whether the site had made building or program adjustments that addressed your accessibility needs?

1. yes

2. no

7. If you planned to visit a historic site, what would you like to know (in terms of accessibility) about the facility before your visit?

8. What suggestions would you give historic site staffs that are considering making their sites handicapped accessible?

Appendix B

Letter Sent to North Carolina Sites

Appendix B

Letter Sent to North Carolina Sites

January 29, 1988

(Title of Historic Site), Curator
(Address)

As part of my graduate research at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, I am surveying all historic sites in Virginia that are open to the public. The purpose of this survey is to determine the status of handicapped accessibility to these historic sites.

In order to pretest the survey, I am sending a copy of my cover letter and questionnaire to ten selected historic sites in North Carolina. I ask that you complete the survey questions as they pertain to your historic site. Any assistance you might give me in identifying potential problems with the survey form or cover letter will be of great value to me in carrying out this study.

Please return the questionnaire by February 10, 1988, using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea E. Gray
M.S. Graduate Student

Dr. Jeanette Bowker,
Associate Professor, Thesis Advisor

Appendix C
Cover Letter

Appendix C

Cover Letter

February 29, 1988

(Title of Historic Site), Curator
(Address)

Many historic structures in Virginia have been preserved for the enjoyment of everyone, but not all people can take advantage of these cultural and educational opportunities. As many as fifteen percent of the people in the United States have handicaps that limit their mobility. Even though some historic sites are accessible to these individuals, no comprehensive listing has been completed, to date, that categorizes sites as to how they might be enjoyed by all people regardless of age or physical ability.

As part of my graduate research at Virginia Tech, I am surveying all historic sites in Virginia that are open to the public. The purpose of this survey is to collect information which may lead to an increased understanding of the various and numerous difficulties encountered in making a site handicapped accessible. In addition, this survey will allow a complete directory of historic sites in Virginia to be compiled. I will denote facilities that are handicapped accessible, and give a brief description of their accessible features. Conceivably, this directory will encourage disabled individuals to visit Virginia historic sites.

Your assistance in completing the accompanying questionnaire will be greatly appreciated. Please return the questionnaire by March 15, 1988, using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea E. Gray
M.S. Graduate Student

Dr. Jeanette Bowker,
Associate Professor, Thesis Advisor

Appendix D

Survey Questionnaire for Historic Sites in North Carolina:
Pretest

Appendix D

Survey Questionnaire for Historic Sites in North Carolina:
Pretest

ACCESSIBILITY OF HISTORIC SITES TO THE HANDICAPPED

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Please circle the number(s) corresponding with the appropriate answers.

1. Is the primary historic building on the site open to the public?

1. NO
2. YES

If NO, are the grounds surrounding the building open to the public?

1. NO (If NO, please turn to the bottom of page 9 of questionnaire)
 2. YES (If YES, continue to question number 2)
2. Is the primary structure accessible to all people regardless of any physical limitations they may have?
1. NO
 2. YES

If NO, please explain what barriers exist, then turn to question 15, page 6.

If YES, have alterations been made to the building in order to make it accessible to all people?

1. NO (If NO, please turn to question 11, page 5)
2. YES (If YES, continue to question number 3)

3. How many structures are on the site?

4. How many structures are accessible to all people regardless of any physical limitations they may have?

5. Have any of the following alterations been made to the historic site to make it handicapped accessible?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
designated handicapped parking space	1	2	
smooth, firm, in good repair walkways around the grounds and up to the building	1	2	
ramp added:			
front entrance	1	2	
side entrance	1	2	
back entrance	1	2	
temporary ramp	1	2	
permanent ramp	1	2	
ramp with nonskid surface	1	2	
exterior electronic lift	1	2	
exterior hydraulic lift	1	2	
widened entrance doorway (at least 36" wide)	1	2	
ramped threshold	1	2	
secured rugs and carpets to the floor	1	2	
added elevator	1	2	
restored existing elevator	1	2	
added stair lift	1	2	
other (please specify)			

6. Have adjustments been made to the site's programs (tours, craft classes, art shows) in order to make them accessible to the handicapped?

1. NO
2. YES

If YES, please describe the adjustments.

7. Does the site have a visitors' center?

1. NO
2. YES

Is it handicapped accessible?

1. NO
2. YES

8. Are alternative means for viewing the site made available through the use of: (circle all that apply)

1. VIDEOTAPE
2. SLIDES
3. LARGE PICTURES
4. DIARAMAS
5. MODELS
6. OTHER (please specify)

9. Is this alternative method offered in the historic building or in an handicapped accessible visitors' center?

1. IN HISTORIC BUILDING
2. IN HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE VISITOR'S CENTER

10. Do handicapped individuals need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site?

1. NO
2. YES

11. Is the site listed as being handicapped accessible in any information that is made available to the public?

1. NO
2. YES

In what type of literature is it listed?

12. Are there individuals with physical handicaps on the staff of the historic site?

1. NO
2. YES

13. Is there a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems?

1. NO
2. YES

14. Have handicapped individuals and the agencies that serve them been invited to serve in an advisory capacity?

1. NO
2. YES

(Please omit questions number 15 and 16).

15. What reasons have prevented changes that would make the site accessible from being made to the historic site?

1. TOO EXPENSIVE
2. NOT ENOUGH INTEREST FROM HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS
3. INSUFFICIENT STAFF
4. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT INTERESTED
5. NOT INTERESTED

16. Are plans currently underway to make alterations in programs and/or activities going on in the historic building and/or on the building itself in order to make them handicapped accessible?

1. NO
2. YES

If YES, please explain what alterations are being made.

17. What would be an estimate of the number of handicapped individuals who visit the site each year?

1. 0
2. 1 to 10
3. 11 to 25
4. 26 to 50
5. more than 51

18. Circle all agencies with which the site is listed.

- 1. NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
- 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICES
- 3. NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
- 4. NATIONAL TRUST
- 5. VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARK
- 6. OTHER (Please specify)

19. What percentage of the site's funding comes from: (Please specify)

- ___ %federal agencies
- ___ %state agencies
- ___ %local agencies
- ___ %private beneficiaries

Please give names of specific funding agencies.

- federal agencies _____
- state agencies _____
- local agencies _____

20. Has the site received federal and/or state governmental funds specified for use in making the facility handicapped accessible?

- 1. NO
- 2. YES

21. Is the site used for: (Circle all that apply)

- 1. TOURISM
 - 2. A PRIVATE HOME
 - 3. OFFICES
 - 4. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS
 - 5. BUSINESS
 - 6. OTHER (please specify)
-

22. Title of person filling out questionnaire:

23. Telephone Number for tourist information:

() -

24. Name of individual in charge of tourism _____ (name and title)

25. When is the site open: (season, days, hours)

_____ SEASON _____ DAYS _____ HOURS

26. County and city in which site is located:

27. When was the primary historic building on the property built?

28. Brief description of the site: (or enclose a tour brochure).

Thank you for taking time to participate in our study. Even if there has been no alterations made on the facility for handicapped accessibility please return the questionnaire. We ask that every questionnaire be returned by February 10, 1988.

We invite any additional comments you think will be helpful for this study.

Please check if you would like a copy of the survey results.

Appendix E

Survey Questionnaire for Historic Sites In Virginia

Appendix E

Survey Questionnaire for Historic Sites in Virginia

ACCESSIBILITY OF HISTORIC SITES TO THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Department of Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Please circle the number(s) corresponding with the appropriate answers.

1. Is the primary historic building on the site open to the public?

1 NO

2 YES (If YES, continue to question number 2)

→ If NO, are the grounds surrounding the building open to the public?

1 NO (If NO, turn to the bottom of page 11 of questionnaire)

2 YES (If YES, continue to question 3)

2. Is the primary historic building physically accessible to all people regardless of any physical limitations they may have?

1 NO

2 YES

→ If Yes, have alterations been made to this historic building in order to make it accessible to all people?

1 No

2 YES (continue to question 3)

→ If NO, explain what barriers exist, then continue to question 3.

3. Are there buildings on the site, other than the primary historic building, that are open to the public?

1 NO (If NO, continue to question 4) If ONLY the grounds of the site are open to the public, turn to the bottom of page 11 of questionnaire.

2 Yes

→If YES, how many are accessible to all people regardless of any physical limitations they may have? _____

4. Does the site have a visitors' center?

1 NO (If NO, continue to question 5)

2 YES

→If YES, is it handicapped accessible?

1 NO

2 YES

5. Do any of the following features presently exist at the historic site? (circle number corresponding with NO or YES) Indicate which building the feature exist in: primary historic building (PHB), another historic building (AHB), and/or visitors' center (VC).

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>
Designated handicapped parking space	1	2	-----
Signs directing disabled individuals to accessible entrance	1	2	-----
Smooth, firm walkways, in good repair, around the grounds and up to the building	1	2	-----
Steps marked by contrasting materials	1	2	-----
Handrails at steps	1	2	-----

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>BUILDING</u> (PHB, AHB, VC)
Ramp at:			
front entrance	1	2	-----
side entrance	1	2	-----
back entrance	1	2	-----
Temporary ramp	1	2	-----
Permanent ramp	1	2	-----
Ramp with nonskid surface	1	2	-----
Handrails at ramp	1	2	-----
Exterior electronic lift	1	2	-----
Exterior hydraulic lift	1	2	-----
Widened entrance doorway (at least 36" wide)	1	2	-----
Ramped threshold	1	2	-----
Rugs and carpets secured to the floor	1	2	-----
Added elevator	1	2	-----
Restored existing elevator	1	2	-----
Added stair lift /stair trac	1	2	-----
Proper lighting in all area of building	1	2	-----
Points of interest clearly marked	1	2	-----
Handicapped accessible rest rooms, phones, water fountains	1	2	-----
Wheelchair available	1	2	-----
Other (please specify)	1	2	-----

6. Have adjustments been made to the site's programs (tours, craft classes, art shows) in order to make them accessible to the handicapped? For example, a basket weaving class might be moved from the historic building to an accessible visitors' center.

1 NO (If NO, continue to question 7)

2 YES

→ If YES, describe the adjustments.

7. Are alternative means for "viewing" the site made available through the use of: (circle number corresponding with NO or YES) If alternative means of "viewing" the site are not available, skip this question and question 8.

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
VIDEOTAPE	1	2
SLIDES	1	2
LARGE PICTURES	1	2
DIORAMAS	1	2
MODELS	1	2
OTHER (please <u>specify</u>)	1	2

8. The alternative method(s) is/are offered in: (circle number corresponding with NO or YES)

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
THE PRIMARY HISTORIC BUILDING	1	2
ANOTHER HISTORIC BUILDING	1	2
THE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE VISITORS' CENTER	1	2
AREAS OFF THE SITE	1	2

9. Do handicapped individuals need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site?

1 NO

2 YES

10. Are special tours offered to people with disabilities?

1 NO

2 YES

11. Is the site listed as being handicapped accessible in any information that is made available to the public?

1 NO (If NO, continue to question 12)

2 YES

→ If YES, in what type of literature is it listed?

12. Are there individuals with physical handicaps on the staff of the historic site?

1 NO

2 YES

13. Is there a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems?

1 NO

2 YES

14. Have handicapped individuals and the agencies that serve them been invited to serve in an advisory capacity?

1 NO

2 YES

15. Have any of the following reasons prevented changes that would make the primary historic building handicapped accessible? (circle number corresponding with NO or YES)

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
TOO EXPENSIVE	1	2
NOT ENOUGH INTEREST FROM HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS	1	2
INSUFFICIENT STAFF	1	2
ALTERATIONS STRUCTURALLY IMPOSSIBLE	1	2
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT INTERESTED	1	2
NOT INTERESTED	1	2
OTHER (please <u>specify</u>)	1	2

16. Are plans (or additional plans) currently underway to make alterations in programs and/or activities going on in the historic building and/or on the building itself in order to make them handicapped accessible?

1 NO (If NO, continue to question 17)

2 YES

→ If YES, explain what alterations are being made, then continue to question 17.

17. What would be an estimate of the number of physically handicapped individuals who visit the site each year?

- 1 0
- 2 1 to 10
- 3 11 to 25
- 4 26 to 50
- 5 more than 51

18. Is the site listed with the following agencies? (circle number corresponding with NO or YES)

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	1	2
NATIONAL PARK SERVICES	1	2
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK	1	2
NATIONAL TRUST	1	2
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARK	1	2
OTHER (please <u>specify</u>)	1	2

19. What percentage of the site's funding comes from: (please specify)

- _____ % FEDERAL AGENCIES
- _____ % STATE AGENCIES
- _____ % LOCAL AGENCIES
- _____ % PRIVATE BENEFICIARIES

Please give names of specific funding agencies.

- FEDERAL AGENCIES _____
- STATE AGENCIES _____
- LOCAL AGENCIES _____

20. Has the site received federal and/or state governmental funds specified for use in making the facility handicapped accessible?

1 NO

2 YES

→ If YES, please elaborate.

21. Is the site used for: (circle number corresponding with NO or YES)

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
TOURISM	1	2
A PRIVATE HOME	1	2
OFFICES	1	2
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS	1	2
BUSINESS	1	2
OTHER (example: TEAS, RECEPTIONS) (please <u>specify</u>)	1	2

22. Title of person filling out questionnaire:

23. Telephone number for tourist information: () -

24. Name of individual in charge of tourism:

----- (name and title)

25. Length of normal tour: -----

26. When is the site open: (season, days, hours)

SEASON (ex. May-Oct.) DAYS (ex. Mon.-Fri.) HOURS (ex. 8-5)

27. County and city in which site is located:

28. When was the primary historic building on the property built?

29. Brief description of the site: (or enclose a tour brochure).

Thank you for taking time to participate in our study. Even if there has been no alterations made on the facility for handicapped accessibility please return the questionnaire. We ask that every questionnaire be returned by March 15, 1988. We invite any additional comments you think will be helpful for this study.

Please check if you would like a copy of the survey results.

Appendix F

Follow-up Cover Letter

Appendix F

Follow-up Cover Letter

March 15, 1988

(Title of Historic Site), Curator
(Address)

Two Weeks ago I wrote to you seeking your assistance in completing a questionnaire concerning handicapped accessibility of historic sites in Virginia. Since I have not heard from you, I am enclosing a second questionnaire.

As part of my graduate research at Virginia Tech, I am surveying all historic sites in Virginia that are open to the public. The purpose of this survey is to collect information which may lead to an increased understanding of the various and numerous difficulties encountered in making a site handicapped accessible. In addition, this survey will allow a complete directory of historic sites in Virginia to be compiled.

If you have already returned the first questionnaire, please disregard this mailing. If you have not returned it, I ask that you please complete the accompanying questionnaire so that a directory can be compiled which represents all of Virginia's historic sites.

Please return the questionnaire by March 25, 1988, using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea E. Gray
M.S. Graduate Student

Appendix G

The Directory

Appendix G

The Directory

VIRGINIA HISTORIC SITES AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY
TO THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED

List of Handicapped Accessible Features of Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●	●					●											
Smooth, Firm Walkways			●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance																		
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials																		
Handrails at Steps					●	●	●	●	●									
Ramp: Front												●		●	●	●		
Ramp: Side			●															
Ramp: Back									●									
Handrails at Ramp																		
Exterior Lift																		
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)					●	●	●	●		●								●
Ramped Threshold																		
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor					●	●		●										
Elevator																		
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac									●									
Proper Lighting	●	●			●	●	●	●										
Points of Interest Clearly Marked					●	●		●	●		●							●
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain																●		
Wheelchair Available										●								

- Abram's Delight
- Log Cabin
- Visitor Center
- Agecroft Hall
- American Work Horse Museum (All Buildings)
- Anne Spencer House
- EdanKraal
- Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Park:
- Courthouse
- McLean House
- Meek's Store
- Woodson Law Office
- Clover Hill Tavern
- Tavern Kitchen
- Tavern Servant's Quarters
- Tavern Guesthouse

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space		●		●					●	●	●	●	
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance									●	●			
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials									●				●
Handrails at Steps		●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●
Ramp: Front			●	●									
Ramp: Side		●							●				
Ramp: Back							●						
Handrails at Ramp		●		●									
Exterior Lift													
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ramped Threshold				●									
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor				●	●						●	●	
Elevator													
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac													
Proper Lighting		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked			●	●			●				●	●	●
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain		●		●						●			
Wheelchair Available		●			●								

- Ja11
- Appomattox Manor
- Ash Lawn Manor House
- Visitor Center
- Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church
- Session House Museum
- Bacon's Castle
- The Bank of Alexandria
- Barter Theatre
- Barter Playhouse
- Belle Air Plantation Manor House
- Belle Grove Plantation Manor House
- Belmont/The Gari Melchers Memorial Gallery

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●		●					●		●	
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●				●	●		●	●	●	●
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance			●		●						
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials						●		●			●
Handrails at Steps		●	●		●	●		●	●		●
Ramp: Front			●								
Ramp: Side		●	●					●			
Ramp: Back											
Handrails at Ramp			●					●			
Exterior Lift					●						
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)	●		●	●		●		●	●	●	●
Ramped Threshold	●					●		●			
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●					●		●		●	
Elevator						●		●			
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac								●			
Proper Lighting	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●					●				●	●
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain	●					●		●		●	
Wheelchair Available	●										

Booker T. Washington National Monument/ Birthplace:
 Visitor Center
 Boyhood Home of Robert E. Lee
 Buena Vista
 Burwell-Morgan Mill
 Carlyle House
 Carpenter Center for Performing Arts/ Loew's Theatre
 Carter Glass House/ St. Paul's Episcopal Church Office
 Other Building
 Centre Hill Mansion
 Chatham Manor
 The Chimneys

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space			●							●		●	●
Smooth, Firm Walkways		●					●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance													
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials		●							●				
Handrails at Steps		●		●			●	●	●	●			●
Ramp: Front											●	●	
Ramp: Side				●				●					
Ramp: Back				●									
Handrails at Ramp								●					
Exterior Lift													
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)		●					●	●			●	●	
Ramped Threshold		●											
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor		●	●				●	●		●	●	●	
Elevator								●					
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac													
Proper Lighting	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●		●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked		●	●				●	●	●		●	●	
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain								●					
Wheelchair Available			●									●	●

- George Washington's Office Museum (Adam Kurtz House)
- Grace Church (Yorktown)
- Gunston Hall Mansion
- The Haller-Gibboney Rock House
- Hanover Courthouse
- Old Jail
- Hanover Theatre
- Henry Street Playhouse
- Hermitage Foundation Museum
- Herndon Train Depot and Museum
- Hill House (Portsmouth)
- Historic Christ Church (Irvington)
- Carter Reception Center

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●	●	●					●							
Smooth, Firm Walkways		●	●		●	●		●		●	●		●	●	
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance		●	●					●			●				
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials	●	●	●		●	●							●	●	
Handrails at Steps	●	●	●		●			●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Ramp: Front			●					●		●	●				
Ramp: Side															
Ramp: Back					●						●				
Handrails at Ramp			●		●			●							
Exterior Lift															
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●				
Ramped Threshold			●					●							
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●		●	●	●		●			●	●		●	●	
Elevator							●								
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac															
Proper Lighting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain			●			●	●				●				
Wheelchair Available							●			●	●				

- Historic Michie Tavern
- General Store/Meadow Run Grist Mill
- Ordinary
- Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop
- The James Madison Museum
- The James Monroe Law Office-Museum and Memorial Library
- The Jefferson Hotel
- Jeff Matthews Memorial Museum
- The John Marshall House
- Kenmore
- Visitor Center
- Kerr Place
- Lee-Fendall House
- Lloyd House

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●			●		●	●						●				
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●			
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance														●			
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials		●															
Handrails at Steps	●		●		●	●	●		●				●	●			
Ramp: Front										●			●	●	●	●	
Ramp: Side													●				
Ramp: Back	●														●		
Handrails at Ramp													●	●			
Exterior Lift									●								
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)	●		●	●	●	●			●	●				●			
Ramped Threshold	●								●	●					●		
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●	●		●	●		●		●								
Elevator	●			●													
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac																	
Proper Lighting	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●	●		●		●			●				●	●			
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain	●								●				●	●			●
Wheelchair Available													●		●	●	
	Lynchburg Museum/ Old Courthouse Museum	Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site	Magnolia Grange	The Manassas City Museum	Mary Washington House	Maymont Mansion	Mayo House Memorial	McCormick's Birthplace	Meadow Farm Farmhouse	Middlesex County Museum (Old Clerk's Office)	Miller-Clayton House	Monticello Mansion	Visitor Center	Montpelier Mansion	Visitor Center		

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●	●	●		●			●	●	●			
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●	●	●		●	●	●	●					
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance													
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials													
Handrails at Steps					●		●	●		●			
Ramp: Front	●				●				●	●			
Ramp: Side													
Ramp: Back	●												
Handrails at Ramp													
Exterior Lift													
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)					●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ramped Threshold									●				
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●				●								
Elevator							●						
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac													
Proper Lighting					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●		
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain		●			●			●		●		●	
Wheelchair Available	●		●		●								

- Mount Vernon Mansion
- Gardener's House
- Mount Vernon Museum
- New Market Battlefield
- Bushong House
- Hall of Valor
- Northern Virginia Fine Arts at the Athenaeum
- Oatlands Plantation Mansion
- Visitor Center
- Old Blandford Church
- Interpretation Center
- Old Donation Episcopal Church
- The Old Russell County Courthouse
- Log House

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space				●		●	●				●								●
Smooth, Firm Walkways			●	●	●	●	●						●	●					●
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance				●															●
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials					●														
Handrails at Steps			●			●		●			●	●							●
Ramp: Front				●															
Ramp: Side																			●
Ramp: Back									●										
Handrails at Ramp																			
Exterior Lift																			
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)				●	●	●	●											●	●
Ramped Threshold									●										●
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor				●				●											
Elevator																			
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac																			
Proper Lighting			●	●	●	●	●					●							●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked				●	●	●						●	●	●					
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain				●				●											●
Wheelchair Available				●															

- Old Stone House/ Edgar Allen Poe Museum
- Old Stone Jail Museum (Palmyra)
- Old Stone Presbyterian Church (Winchester)
- Pamunkey Indian Museum
- Piney Grove
- Pohick Church
- Visitor Center
- Point of Honor
- Pope-Leighey House
- Poplar Forest
- Ramsay House
- Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial
- Visitor Center
- Reynolds Homestead
- Riddick House

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space					●		●	●			●	●	
Smooth, Firm Walkways							●	●	●	●		●	●
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance							●	●					
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials													
Handrails at Steps	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	
Ramp: Front													
Ramp: Side					●				●	●			
Ramp: Back								●				●	
Handrails at Ramp					●			●	●	●		●	
Exterior Lift							●						
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)					●	●	●	●			●		●
Ramped Threshold							●	●					
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor			●		●	●	●					●	
Elevator													
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac													
Proper Lighting	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●					●	●	●					●
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain							●					●	
Wheelchair Available					●		●						

- Rising Sun Tavern
- River Farm Manor House
- St. James Episcopal Church (Accomac)
- Saint James' House
- St. John's Church (Hampton)
- Parish Hall
- St. John's Church (Richmond)
- Parish House
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Norfolk)
- Parish House
- St. Peter's Parish Church (New Kent Courthouse)
- Scott-Clarke House
- Sherwood Forest Plantation Manor House

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space			●							●				●	
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●		●	●	●		●	●	●					●	●
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance															
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials							●								
Handrails at Steps			●		●	●	●	●						●	●
Ramp: Front														●	
Ramp: Side															
Ramp: Back														●	
Handrails at Ramp														●	
Exterior Lift															
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)	●		●	●		●	●	●	●					●	●
Ramped Threshold															
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●													●	●
Elevator															●
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac															
Proper Lighting	●		●	●	●			●		●				●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●		●	●	●					●				●	
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain	●		●											●	
Wheelchair Available									●						

Shirley Plantation Mansion
 Shot Tower Historical Park:
 Tower
 Other Building
 Siege Museum (The Exchange Building)
 Smithfield Plantation Manor House
 Smith's Fort Plantation Manor House
 Smyth County Historical Museum
 Stone River Meeting House
 Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop
 Stone House (Manassas)
 Manassas Battlefield Visitor Center
 Stoneleigh

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space					●	●		●	●	●	●			
Smooth, Firm Walkways		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance					●									
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials					●									
Handrails at Steps					●				●	●	●	●		
Ramp: Front		●		●				●		●				
Ramp: Side														
Ramp: Back					●			●		●				
Handrails at Ramp									●	●				
Exterior Lift														
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)		●			●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●
Ramped Threshold		●												
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor					●				●	●				●
Elevator														
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac														
Proper Lighting	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Points of Interest Clearly Marked		●	●	●	●	●		●	●				●	
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain		●		●	●	●		●		●				
Wheelchair Available			●	●		●								

- Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters
- Stonewall Jackson Shrine
- Stratford Hall Plantation Mansion
- Log Cabin Dining Room
- Sully Manor House
- Swannanoa
- Sycamore Tavern
- Syms-Eaton Museum
- Kecoughtan Indian Village
- Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church
- Another Building
- Trapezium House
- Violet Bank Civil War Museum
- The Virginia House

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●	●						●				●	●	●
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●	●	●		●	●		●				●	●	
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance	●	●						●						
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials	●	●			●				●				●	
Handrails at Steps			●	●	●		●	●	●				●	
Ramp: Front								●		●			●	
Ramp: Side	●													
Ramp: Back														
Handrails at Ramp								●						
Exterior Lift														
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)	●		●		●	●	●	●		●		●	●	
Ramped Threshold	●							●						
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●		●					●				●	●	
Elevator	●							●						
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac								●						
Proper Lighting	●		●		●	●	●	●				●	●	
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●		●		●	●		●		●			●	
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain	●							●		●				
Wheelchair Available			●					●						

Virginia State Capitol
 Old Bell Tower Visitor Center
 Wayside Theatre
 The Weems-Botts Museum
 Weston Manor
 Westover Mansion
 White's Mill
 Wickham-Valentine House
 Wilton
 Woodlawn Plantation Mansion
 Woodrow Wilson Birthplace:
 Greek Revival Mansion
 Colonial Revival House
 Victorian Mansion

List of Handicapped Accessible Features at Each Site

Designated Parking Space	●		
Smooth, Firm Walkways	●		
Signs Directing to Handicapped Accessible Entrance	●		
Steps Marked with Contrasting Materials			
Handrails at Steps			
Ramp: Front	●		
Ramp: Side	●		
Ramp: Back	●		
Handrails at Ramp			
Exterior Lift			
Wide Doorway Entrance (At Least 36" Wide)	●		
Ramped Threshold			
Rugs and Carpets Secured to Floor	●		
Elevator			
Stair Lift/ Stair Trac			
Proper Lighting	●		
Points of Interest Clearly Marked	●		
Handicapped Accessible Rest Rooms, Phone and/or Water Fountain	●		
Wheelchair Available	●		

Yorktown Battlefield:
 Visitor Center
 Moore House
 Nelson House

ACCOMACK COUNTY

Debtors Prison (Accomac)

This high pitch roofed, Flemish bond brick laid structure was built in 1784 by contractor Selby Simpson. It was built originally as a residence for the jailor. In 1824 it became the debtor's prison. In its later years, the building was used as a meeting place, a lending library and a place for storage. In 1953 it was restored as a museum. Today one of the prison's downstairs rooms is furnished as it might have looked when jailor John Snead lived there. The other downstairs room represents the period when the building housed debtors. Upstairs there are various items of interest, and a collection of books and papers dealing with Eastern Shore history and genealogy.

30 minute tour

Open upon request to Chamber of Commerce Office, Accomac, VA

For more information, write to:

Debtors Prison
c/o Drummondtown Branch APVA
College Avenue Apts.
Onancock, VA 23417

Or contact: The Director of Drummondtown Branch APVA
(804) 787-3480

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site.

Kerr Place (Onancock)

Kerr Place is the Federal style mansion built between 1799 and 1806 for wealthy planter and merchant John Shepherd Ker. The house possesses three reception rooms, embellished with applied composition classical ornaments in the style of those manufactured by Robert Wellford of Philadelphia. The site was purchased by the Eastern Shore Historical Society in 1960. Today Kerr Place is the home of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society. Its gardens were restored by the Garden Club of Virginia.

40 minute tour

Open March - December

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

For more information, write to:

Kerr Place
Box 193
69 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23147

Or call: (804) 787-8012

St. James Episcopal Church (Accomac)

St. James Episcopal Church, a provincial Greek Revival style structure, was built in 1838. Its main historic attraction is its interior painting known as "Trompe l'oeil". It fools the eye. The painting is in an apsidal arch, giving it a false perspective. An itinerant artist named Potts created this masterpiece. The bricks used in the church's walls were salvaged from an 18th-century church which stood nearby. Today a small congregation of about 40 people have services in the building.

Open year round

For more information, write to:

St. James Episcopal Church
Daugherty Road
Accomac, VA 23301

Or call: (804) 787-3766

ALEXANDRIA

The Bank of Alexandria

The Bank of Alexandria is a three-story, Federal style structure, built in 1793. It is the oldest bank building still being used as a bank in the United States. This structure housed the first bank chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. After the bank failed in 1834, the building was used as a post office, an elegant hotel, a Civil War Union hospital and an apartment building. Most of the original exterior and first floor features remain intact. Today the basement of the old Bank is used as store and office space. The first floor houses the offices and lobby of Signet Bank, and the upper two floors are residential apartments.

Open year round

Monday - Friday, 9:00-2:00, 3:30-5:00

For more information, write to:
 The Bank of Alexandria
 133 N. Fairfax Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Or call: (703) 750-7331

Disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit. The back ramped entrance is locked for security reasons; therefore, prior notice is needed.

Boyhood Home of Robert E. Lee

This elegant Federal style mansion was built in 1795. It was the home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. It contains authentic period pieces. In the drawing room of the dwelling, Mary Lee Fitzhugh married George Washington Parke Custis. Twenty-seven years later their daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Custis, became the wife of Robert E. Lee.

30 minute tour

Open February 1 - December 15

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 12:00-4:00

Groups by appointment

Closed Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Boyhood Home of Robert E. Lee
 607 Oronoco Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Or call: (703) 548-8454

Persons requiring special assistance are asked to call in advance of their visit.

Carlyle House

This stone, Georgian style manor house was built for Scottish merchant John Carlyle in 1752. British General Edward Braddock used Carlyle's home for his headquarters in 1755. It was here he summoned five colonial governors for a council held to discuss strategy and funding for the French and Indian War. In the mid-19th century, the house became part of the Mansion House Hotel complex owned by a local furniture manufacturer. It also served as a Union hospital during the Civil War. Today there is an unplastered room in the mansion that

illustrates, layer by layer, the construction and restoration history of the structure.

45 minute tours on the hour and half hour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 12:00-5:00

Closed Mondays

Admission fee

Group rates available by advanced reservation

For more information, write to:

Carlyle House

121 North Fairfax Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Or call: (703) 549-2997

The basement of the mansion with its reception area, servant's hall and gift shop, and the first floor of the mansion are handicapped accessible.

Christ Church

Christ Church was built between 1767 and 1772 under the direction of John Carlyle. It was constructed of native brick and roofed with juniper shingles (now replaced with slate). In design, Christ Church is similar to an English country church. Most of the structure and its interior woodwork are original. Christ Church housed the first Episcopal congregation in Alexandria. It was the parish church of George Washington and Robert E. Lee. The church has been in continuous service for over 210 years and today houses a 2,000 member congregation.

5 minute tour

Open November 1 - March 1

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-4:00

March 1 - October 31

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

Sunday, 2:00-4:30

Gift shop open daily except Sunday

Hours subject to abbreviation due to church activities

For more information, write to:

Christ Church

118 N. Washington Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Or contact: The Rector or The Curator
(703) 549-1450

There is a small step (2") at the entrances into the church. The staff is able to help those who need assistance getting over the step. An exterior lift and interior elevator have been added to a building on the site other than the Historic Christ Church.

Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism

Collingwood Library and Museum are housed in a scenic mansion overlooking Washington's river farm. The mansion was built about 1785.

1 hour tour

Open year round

Monday, Wednesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-4:00

Closed December 20 - January 5

For more information, write to:

Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism

8501 E. Boulevard Drive

Alexandria, VA 22308

Or contact: The Curator or The Associate Curator
(703) 765-1652

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours are offered to visitors with disabilities. There is a handicapped accessible visitor center on the site.

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site

This fort was built in 1865. At that time it was the fifth largest fort in the United States fort system. About 95% of the fort's original walls are visible. The fort's northwest bastion has been completely restored, and the remaining earthwork walls have been well preserved. The ceremonial gate at the entrance to the fort is a reconstruction. The reconstructed officer's hut represents a typical dwelling at a fort. The museum, patterned after a Union headquarters building, houses a research library and a collection of Civil War artifacts.

45 minute self-guided tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

Sunday, 12:00-5:00

Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site

4301 W. Braddock Road

Alexandria, VA 22304-1008

Or contact: The Museum Director

(703) 838-4848

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Tours are adapted to accommodate people with disabilities. During special events at the site, parking for the disabled is available. The museum director is currently working on having a handicapped parking space designated.

Gadsby's Tavern

Gadsby's Tavern site consists of two Georgian buildings: the City Tavern, built in 1770 and the three-story City Hotel section, built and opened by John Wise in 1792. The tavern was named for Englishman John Gadsby, who operated it in the early 19th century. The establishment was a center of political, business, and social life in early Alexandria. The woodwork that was in the tavern's ballroom is now displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Today the tavern serves as a museum and a restaurant.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Small admission fee

Group rates available by appointment

For more information, write to:

Gadsby's Tavern

134 N. Royal Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Or call: (703) 838-4200 or 838-4242

It is suggested that disabled visitors make advanced arrangements before their visit to the tavern. Special tours are offered.

Lee-Fendall House

This large clapboard house was a Lee family home between 1785 and 1903. It was built by Philip Richard and Elizabeth Lee Fendall. Mr. Fendall was an attorney, bank president, director of the Potomac Canal Company and an active Alexandrian leader. The house was remodeled in Greek Revival style in 1852. The Lee-Fendall House contains many Lee family furnishings, family records and inventories, plus documented archaeological and historical research. The Lee-Fendall House displays a permanent exhibit of doll houses and miniature architecture.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 12:00-4:00

Closed Mondays

For more information, write to:

Lee-Fendall House
614 Oronoco Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Or contact: The Director
(703) 548-1789

Special tours are offered to people with disabilities.

Lloyd House

This late-Georgian style house was built by John Wise in 1797. In the early 1800s, it was the home of James Marshall (brother of John Marshall), as well as Jacob Hoffman, mayor of Alexandria. In 1826 the house was used as a school by Benjamin Hallowell, tutor of Robert E. Lee. The Lloyd family owned the house until 1918. During World War II, it became a rooming house and was divided into many small rooms. In 1976 the Lloyd House was restored as a special library for scholars of Alexandria and Virginia history. It houses an extensive collection of rare books, records and documents. Several objects and paintings belonging to former residents of the house and famous Alexandrians are displayed.

20 minute tour

Open year round

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
 Lloyd House
 220 N. Washington Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Or call: (703) 838-4577

Special tours are offered to individuals with disabilities.

Northern Virginia Fine Arts at the Athenaeum (Old Dominion Bank Building)

This Greek Revival style structure was built in 1851. It was built as the Bank of the Old Dominion, and served as a bank until 1907, when it was converted into a warehouse. Later the building was used as a church. Today the building is being used as an art center.

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
 Sunday, 1:00-4:00

For more information, write to:
 Northern Virginia Fine Arts at the Athenaeum
 201 Prince Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Or contact: The Art Center Director
 (703) 548-0035

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the art center. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The center is currently trying to collect funds to build a ramp.

Ramsay House

The Ramsay House serves as a visitor center in the heart of Historic Alexandria's Old Town. It was named for William Ramsay, a Scottish merchant and a founder of Alexandria. The Ramsay family probably only occupied the house for a short period of time before moving to a larger house. The Ramsay House was moved from its original site (which is unknown). The original house contained only one room on each floor, but was expanded to two rooms per floor before it was moved to its present site. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the house was used for various purposes such as a tavern, a grocery store, a rooming house and a cigar factory.

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Ramsay House

221 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Or contact: The Executive Director

(703) 838-4200

River Farm

River Farm was purchased by George Washington in 1760. The house on the farm was built in the late 1700s. Today the house is furnished with reproductions from this period.

Open year round

Daily, 8:30-5:00

For more information, write to:

River Farm

7931 E. Boulevard Drive

Alexandria, VA 22308

Or call: (703) 768-5700

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit.

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop

The building that houses the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop was built in 1774. The shop was originally owned by a silver and coppersmith. The apothecary shop was founded by Edward Stabler, a devout Quaker, in 1792. It was the oldest drug store in the United States in continuous operation by one family (from 1792 to 1933). The facade of the shop has been restored to its original appearance. The shop contains an authentic collection of antique drugstore furnishings, including hundreds of beautiful hand-blown bottles with gold labels. To help maintain the museum, an antique and consignment shop is operated in a building adjoining the Apothecary Shop.

10 minute recorded tour

Open year round

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

For more information, write to:
 Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop
 107 S. Fairfax Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Or call: (703) 836-9456

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Appomattox Court House National Historic Park (Appomattox)

The Appomattox Court House village has been restored to its 1865 condition. The original name of the village was Clover Hill. The original Courthouse (1846) was burned in 1892. It has been reconstructed, and today it serves as the site's visitor center. The McLean House was built in 1848; it was bought by Wilmer McLean 15 years later. This house is where General Robert E. Lee surrendered the army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant in April 1865, bringing the end to the Civil War. In 1893 the McLean House was dismantled with the hope of taking it to Washington, DC to be used as a war museum, but the bricks and lumber were never moved. The McLean House was reconstructed in 1948 on its original site. Around the house there were servants quarters, a kitchen, an icehouse and a well. Today all these buildings have been reconstructed. Other buildings on the Appomattox Court House Site include: Meeks' Store, built in 1852. It served as a store, a private residence and a Presbyterian Church Manse. The Woodson Law Office was bought by John Woodson in 1846. He practiced law here until his death. Clover Hill Tavern was built in 1819. This brick tavern is the oldest structure in the village. At one time it had two frame additions; one was the dining room, the other was the bar. Behind the tavern is the Tavern Kitchen (now a bookstore) and the Servants Quarters (now the rest rooms). Beside the tavern is the Tavern Guesthouse where people stayed when the tavern was full. The Jail was finished about 1870, and for the next 22 years it served as a county jail and sheriff's office. The Jail served as a voting station until 1949.

2 hour self-guided tour
 Open year round
 Daily, 9:00-5:00
 Closed holidays from November to February

For more information, write to:
 Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
 P.O. Box 218
 Appomattox, VA 24522-0218

Or contact: The Site Superintendent
(804) 352-8987

Special group tours are offered to the disabled. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The site's models have braille labels. Historical talks and tours are presented outside of the historical structures. Wheelchair users should have no trouble maneuvering on the sidewalks around the buildings or across the site.

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church (Fort Defiance)

Augusta Stone Church was established in 1740 by Reverend John Craig. Its founders were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. Augusta Stone Church's congregation is one of the oldest Presbyterian organizations in Virginia. The Old Stone Church is the oldest Presbyterian house of worship in continuous use in the state of Virginia. It was built for a dual purpose; first as a religious sanctuary and secondly as a fort in case of Indian attack. The earliest church building constitutes most of the nave of the present sanctuary. In 1921 transepts were added to the original building, forming a cross. In 1847 the small stone Session House that was attached to the north side of the church building was removed and rebuilt adjacent to the church. The church was converted into a museum in 1975, housing many church heirlooms.

For more information, write to:
Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 118
Fort Defiance, VA 24437

Or call: (703) 248-2634

Disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit. A disabled visitor can enter through the back entrance to the fellowship hall, which is level, and then go down a hall to the sanctuary.

McCormick's Birthplace (Steeles Tavern)

This site is where Cyrus Hall McCormick was born and grew up. McCormick demonstrated the world's first successful mechanical reaper on his home farm, Walnut Grove. The farm became the Shenandoah Valley Research Station of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. McCormick's blacksmith shop and grist mill have been

restored. The main historic building on the site is not open to the public.

20 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 8:00-5:00

For more information, write to:

McCormick's Birthplace
Steeles Tavern, VA 24476

Or call: (703) 377-2255

One building on the site is accessible to the disabled. Handicapped accessible rest room facilities are available on the site.

Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church (Fishersville)

The original Tinkling Springs Church was organized in 1740. The present building, designed by Robert Lewis Dabney, was built in the 1850s. The church site covers approximately 10 acres. Tinkling Springs' fellowship hall was built about 1880, and has since undergone some additions and interior remodeling. The educational wing was built in the 1950s. Several cemeteries are on the site; one dates back to pre-Revolutionary War time. Today there is a small museum in the church.

Open year round

Weekdays, 9:00-4:00

Sundays, 9:00-12:30

For more information, write to:

Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church
Fishersville, VA 22939

Or call: (703) 885-0746

BEDFORD COUNTY

Poplar Forest (Forest)

Poplar Forest was built in 1806 for Thomas Jefferson, who designed it and used it as his personal retreat. Jefferson designed his octagonal house, using the French interpretation of the Palladian style of architecture. In 1806 Jefferson assisted his masons in laying the

house's foundation. The house was gutted by fire in 1845, but was rebuilt within the remaining walls, maintaining the floor plan. Outbuildings on the site include a kitchen, dairy and octagonal necessities. At the present time, these buildings are unrestored and unfurnished.

30 minute tour

Open weekends May - October, and Historic Garden Week, 10:00-4:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Poplar Forest

P. O. Box 419

Forest, VA 24551-0419

Or contact: The Public Relations Coordinator

(804) 525-1806

Parking access to the site can be improved by contacting the site office.

CAROLINE COUNTY

Stonewall Jackson Shrine (Fredericksburg area)

This building is where "Stonewall" Jackson spent the last 6 days of his life. This little building, built in 1828, was originally a plantation office on Thomas C. Chandler's 740-acre plantation, Fairfield. Chandler kept records in this office; his son practiced medicine in it. The office is the only plantation structure remaining; about 45% of its original structural fabric has been retained. The National Park Service has augmented some of the items used during Jackson's stay with other pieces from the era, along with a few reproductions, to recreate the scene of the last days of Jackson's life. In the Death Room, the bed frame and one of the blankets used by Jackson are on display. The shrine is part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

15 minute tour

Open June 18 - Labor Day

Sunday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

Labor Day - October

Friday - Thursday, 9:00-5:00

November - March

Saturday - Monday, 9:00-5:00

April - June 18

Friday - Tuesday, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:
Stonewall Jackson Shrine
P. O. Box 679
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
Or contact: The Chief Historian
(703) 373-4461

Special tours are available for the disabled, upon request. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The site plans to produce a folder in braille of the entire Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. They also plan to produce a folder on handicapped accessibility within the park.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Belle Air Plantation (Charles City)

Belle Air Plantation was the home of Colonel Thomas Stegge II (1655) and Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Clarke (1662). The Clarke family named the property Belle Air. The plantation's manor house is a one and a half story frame dwelling with chimneys on both ends. It was built between 1650 and 1670, with an addition added in 1790. The house has a symmetrical facade with a center passage floor plan. It possesses huge hand-hewn pine timbers that are exposed to the interior. The floors and mantles are of natural heart-pine. The best known feature of the house is its heavy Jacobean staircase, with its closed-string stair railing.

1 hour tour

Open the last week in April for Historic Garden Week
Otherwise open for groups of 20 or more, by appointment only

For more information, write to:
Belle Air Plantation
c/o Mrs. Walter O. Major
Rt. 1, Box 2
Charles City, VA 23030

Or call: (804) 829-2431

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting Belle Air Plantation. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Evelynton Plantation (Charles City)

Evelynton has been the home of the Ruffin family since 1847. The family patriarch was Edmund Ruffin; the man who fired the first shot of the Civil War. During the Colonial period, Evelynton was part of William Byrd's Westover Plantation. The new plantation was named after Byrd's daughter, Evelyn. During the Civil War, the original house and slave's quarters were burned, the fields sown with salt and the oldest trees girdled. In the 1930s, John Augustine Ruffin, Jr. commissioned Duncan Lee to design a Greek Revival style manor house atop the foundation of the original house. The new manor house was constructed of 250 year old brick. Today Evelynton's mansion is furnished with American, English and Continental antiques.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

Discounts for children and seniors

Special group rates for 25 or more

For more information, write to:

Evelynton Plantation

Rt. 2, Box 145

Charles City, VA 23030

Or contact: The Site Director

(804) 829-5075

Special tours are offered to individuals with disabilities.

Piney Grove (Charles City)

Piney Grove is a log dwelling built about 1800.

1 hour tour

Open year round

Saturdays, 9:00-5:00

Sundays, 1:00-5:00

For more information, write to:

Piney Grove

Rt. 1, Box 148

Charles City, VA 23030

Or call: (804) 829-2480

Sherwood Forest Plantation (Charles City)

Sherwood Forest Plantation has been owned by two American Presidents: John Tyler and William Henry Harrison. The Colonial-Empire style plantation house was built in 1730. It was altered and renovated by President Tyler in 1844. The house is 300 feet long and considered to be the longest frame house in America. The house contains a mixture of 18th and 19th-century family heirlooms. There are over 80 varieties of century old trees in the plantation's gardens. Sherwood Forest has been under continuous ownership by members of the Tyler family, and has been a working plantation for over 250 years.

35 to 45 minute tour
 Grounds open year round
 Daily, 9:00-5:00
 Closed Christmas Day
 Museum is open by appointment
 Admission fee
 Group rates available

For more information, write to:
 Sherwood Forest Plantation
 P. O. Box 8
 Charles City, VA 23030

Or call: (804) 829-5377

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. There are special tours for individuals with disabilities. There is someone on staff responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Shirley Plantation (Charles City)

Shirley Plantation, a 800-acre working plantation, is the oldest plantation in Virginia. The land was granted to Edward Hill in 1660. Shirley has been the home of the Carters since 1723, when Edward Hill III built the mansion for his daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth married John Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter. The pineapple, a Colonial symbol of hospitality, is featured in the hand-carved woodwork in the house and on the three and a half foot finial on the peak of the mansion's mansard roof. The mansion features a carved walnut staircase which rises three stories without visible means of support; it is the only one of its kind in America. The mansion is filled with family portraits, furniture, crested silver and memorabilia. The brick outbuildings, built in 1725, form a unique Queen Anne forecourt.

45 minute tour
 Open year round
 Closed Christmas
 Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Shirley Plantation
 Rt. 5, P. O. Box 635
 Charles City, VA 23030

Or call: (804) 795-2385 or 829-5121

Shirley's owners plan to purchase a temporary ramp, which will be used at the side entrance to the mansion.

Westover (Charles City)

Westover was the home of William Byrd II. The plantation's name came from Henry West, the fourth Lord Delaware and son of Thomas West, the Governor of Virginia. The Georgian style mansion was built in 1730. Its two wings were originally identical and not connected to the three-story central structure. The east wing once contained the famous Byrd library of more than 4,000 volumes. It burned during the Civil War. The present east wing was built about 1900; both wings were connected to the main house at this time. The famous Westover Gates have William Evelyn Byrd's initials incorporated into the ironwork. There are lead eagles on the gate posts. The wrought iron fence is supported by columns topped by stone finials cut to resemble acorns, pineapples, Greek keys, cornucopias, beehives and urns of flowers. Today the mansion is the home of the Fisher family.

30 to 45 minute tour of the Grounds
 45 minute to 1 hour tour of the House and the Grounds
 The Grounds and Garden open year round
 Daily, 9:00-6:00
 House open during Historic Garden Week
 Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Westover
 Rt. 2, Box 445
 Charles City, VA 23030

Or contact: The Assistant Manager
 (804) 795-2882

The kitchen and tunnel house are handicapped accessible. Special tours can be arranged for disabled visitors.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial (Brookneal)

Red Hill is the last home of Patrick Henry. Henry and his wife, Dorothea, are buried in the cemetery at Red Hill. The main house was destroyed by fire in 1919, but it has been authentically reconstructed on its original foundation. The Cook's cabin was rebuilt using the original logs. The Law Office, built by a previous owner in about 1774, is an original building. The Carriage House and other buildings were added to authentically represent the plantation at the time the Henry family lived at Red Hill. The famous P. H. Rothermel oil painting, "Patrick Henry before the Virginia House of Burgesses", is displayed in the Patrick Henry Museum, which was built in 1976. The site owns many original Henry family possessions and an extensive collection of Patrick Henry memorabilia.

1 to 1 1/2 hour tour
 Open April - October
 Daily, 9:00-5:00
 November - March
 Daily, 9:00-5:00
 Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day
 Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial
 Route 2, Box 27
 Brookneal, VA 24528

Or contact: The Executive Director
 (804) 376-2044

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ash Lawn (Highland)

Ash Lawn was the 550-acre estate of James Monroe. Thomas Jefferson personally selected the Monroe house (built in 1799) site, and sent his gardeners to start orchards on the property. In 1860 the house was enlarged by Parson John E. Massey with the addition of the two-story portico section. Today Ash Lawn has the atmosphere of an early 19th-century working plantation. The visitor can find many Monroe possessions here, as well as periodic demonstrations of spinning and weaving, a statue of Monroe sculptured by Piccirilli, and peacocks in the boxwood gardens.

30 minute tour of the House

Open March - October

Daily, 9:00-6:00

November - February

Daily, 10:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

Group rates available

For more information, write to:

Ash Lawn

Rt. 6, Box 37

Charlottesville, VA 22901

Or contact: The Director of Programs

(804) 293-9539

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours are available to individuals with disabilities. A supervised touch tour is available to those with visual disabilities. Walkways around the site are ramped.

Historic Michie Tavern

Michie Tavern is part of one of the oldest homesteads remaining in Virginia. It was originally located on a well-traveled stage coach route 17 miles northwest of its present location. Scotsman John Michie purchased the land (on which the tavern originally sat) in 1746 from Patrick Henry's father, Major John Henry. Michie built and opened his tavern in 1784. His descendents owned the property until 1920. In 1927 the tavern was dismantled, moved and reconstructed. Today the Tavern contains one of the largest and finest collections of pre-Revolutionary War furniture and artifacts, and is expanding its exhibit with the building of an authentic 18th-century village. Many of the tavern's furnishings and artifacts are those of the original tavern owners. The 200 year old converted slave house, now called "The Ordinary", is used as a restaurant. The Meadow Run Grist Mill is also on the site. Its two-story high water wheel with gears is still being turned by a millrace; it has been operating for almost 160 years. The adjacent General Store has an old mercantile atmosphere with a post office and barber shop. Upstairs in the General Store is the Virginia Wine Museum, which traces the wine industry in Virginia from Jamestown (in 1607) to the present.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Historic Michie Tavern
 Rt. 6, Box 7-A
 Charlottesville, VA 22901

Or call: (804) 977-1234

The craft village which is planned for the site will be handicapped accessible. Special tours are available to the disabled visitor if it is arranged before arrival. There is a person on staff responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. "The Ordinary" and General Store are accessible to the disabled. There is a shuttle bus service at the site.

Monticello

Monticello was the home of Thomas Jefferson. The name "Monticello" came from the Italian term meaning "little mountain". The design, construction and remodeling of the house spanned over 40 years. Monticello's dome, the first to be built on an American house, was based on the ancient temple of Vesta in Rome. Classical architecture provided Jefferson with the decorative motifs for the principle rooms. Jefferson oversaw every aspect of furnishing the house, including designs of the curtains and colors of the walls. Most of the furniture and objects at Monticello today were owned by Jefferson or his family. Jefferson acquired many pieces of art and household furnishings from Paris. Much of the furniture in Monticello came from cabinetmakers in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Jefferson equipped the house with a variety of gadgets.

30 minute tour of the house

Open December - February

Daily, 9:00-4:30

March - November

Daily, 8:00-5:00

Closed Christmas Day

Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Monticello
 c/o Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation
 P. O. Box 316
 Charlottesville, VA 22902

Or call: (804) 295-8181

A special tour guide pamphlet is available for the disabled visitor. Special tours are offered to the disabled visitor. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Two miles west of Monticello there is a fully handicapped accessible visitor center that displays Monticello and Jefferson memorabilia.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Magnolia Grange (Chesterfield)

Magnolia Grange, a Federal style plantation house, was built in 1822 by William Winfree. The house sits on land that was originally a part of a large land patent to Valentine Winfree in the 1750s; this land was known as "The Courthouse Tract". The house derived its name from a circle of Magnolia trees that once graced its front lawn. Magnolia Grange contains elaborate ceiling medallions, as well as sophisticated carving on mantels, doorways and window enframements. Today scenic wallpaper by Zubier and carpeting of the period combine with authentic furnishing to return the house to the 1820s.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Friday, 12:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-4:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Magnolia Grange

P.O. Box 40

Chesterfield, VA 23832

Or contact: The Site Director

(804) 748-1026

CLARKE COUNTY

Burwell-Morgan Mill (Millwood)

Burwell-Morgan Mill is an outstanding example of 18th-century architecture and technology. The mill was the joint business venture of Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Burwell and Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. During the Civil War, flour and feed from the mill were sold to both armies. The stone portion of the Mill was built sometime between 1782 and 1786. The second floor of the mill, which was built of clapboard, was added in 1876. The mill continued to operate until 1953. In 1963 it was rescued from disrepair by Wayside Restoration,

Incorporated.

30 minute tour
Open March - October
Daily, 10:00-4:00

For more information, write to:
Burwell-Morgan Mill
Box 306
Millwood, VA 22646

Or contact: The President of the Clarke County Historical Association
(703) 955-4171

Special tours are available to individuals with disabilities. A small sill at the first floor side entrance and a short stone walkway are the only impediments to smooth handicapped access into the Mill. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

Violet Bank Civil War Museum

Violet Bank represents domestic architecture of the Federal period. It was built between 1810 and 1814, on part of the original 144 acres granted to George Archer I before the American Revolution. Violet Bank was General Lee's headquarters in Colonial Heights between June 8, 1864 and November 1, 1864. It was from here he received the news of the explosion at the Crater. Today the museum features weapons and equipment carried by Civil War soldiers, cannon projectiles and small arms bullets. A picture of Stonewall Jackson, which bears his autograph, is also displayed here.

Open April 1 - October 31
Monday - Saturday, 10:00-3:00
Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Closed on Thursdays

For more information, write to:
Violet Bank Civil War Museum
326 Royal Oak Avenue
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Or contact: The Curator
(804) 520-9395 or 520-9390

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. There is a member of the staff responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The site is considering adding ramps and a slide presentation for better handicapped accessibility.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site (Great Falls)

Colvin Run Mill was built by Phillip Carper, a prominent local businessman, in 1811. The mill engaged in buying and selling grain and flour, and served both local and foreign markets. Colvin Run Mill was closely modeled on the principles invented by Oliver Evans, whose book, The Young Millwright and Miller's Guide, revolutionized milling in the 19th century. The 19th-century Miller's House on the Colvin Mill Run site was also built by Phillip Carper. Also on the site is a 20th-century General Store and 19th-century Dairy Barn. The Miller's House and the Dairy Barn are used for interpretive exhibits, demonstrations and special programs. The General Store is an original structure that operated near the mill during the early 20th century. The store is still used to sell products ground at the mill and a variety of handcrafted items, candy and other merchandise.

1 hour tour

Open mid-March - December

Wednesday - Monday, 11:00-5:00

January 1 - mid-March

Saturday and Sunday, 12:00-4:00

For more information, write to:

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

c/o Fairfax County Park Authority

4030 Hummer Road

Annandale, VA 22003

Or contact: The Special Museum Programs Coordinator
(703) 759-2771

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems. One of the buildings other than the mill has a permanent ramp at its front entrance. There are also handicapped accessible rest rooms in one of the auxiliary buildings.

Dranesville Tavern(Dranesville)

Dranesville Tavern was an early 19th-century drovers' rest located on a major thoroughfare between the county and city. It was built in three stages; the earliest portion was built about 1830. The proprietor of the early tavern was Sanford Cockerille. The tavern catered almost exclusively to teamsters. Today Dranesville Tavern is not open to the general public as a museum. It serves as a rental facility and venue for special museum programs. It is administered by the Colvin Run Mill Historic Site.

Open for special events or by appointment

For more information, write to:
 Dranesville Tavern
 c/o Fairfax County Park Authority
 4030 Hummer Road
 Annandale, VA 22003

Or contact: The Special Museum Programs Coordinator
 (703) 759-2771

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the tavern.

Gunston Hall (Lorton)

Gunston Hall was the plantation home of George Mason. The plantation was self-sufficient. It covered over 5,000 acres, with most of the acreage being devoted to growing wheat and tobacco and grazing sheep. Mason designed and began construction of his Georgian style house before 1755, then brought William Buckland over from England to complete the finishing architectural touches and design of the superb carvings. The house possesses an unusual semi-octagonal porch that overlooks the formal gardens. Gunston Hall is furnished with English and American pieces made before 1792, predominantly in the American Chippendale style. The outbuildings on the site were reconstructed with information found through archaeological and documentary research.

30 minute tour of the house
 Open year round
 Daily, 9:30-5:00
 Closed Christmas Day
 Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Gunston Hall
Route 242
Lorton, VA 22079

Or call: (703) 550-9220

There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems. There is a handicapped accessible visitor center on the site, as well as handicapped accessible rest room facilities. The site has plans for adding a temporary ramp at the mansion.

Herndon Train Depot and Museum (Herndon)

The Herndon Train Depot was built about 1857. The Depot's main entrance opens into what is supposed to be the oldest portion of the building, the original central waiting room. To the left of this entrance was the station manager's office, with the telegrapher's table set in the bay window. The second waiting room is now occupied by offices of the Herndon Chamber of Commerce. Through the years the Depot has been used for a variety of purposes. Town Council meetings were held here, and the first post office in Herndon was located here. The Western Union telegraph office was also here. The depot's museum houses a collection of Indian artifacts from the local area, instruments used in the station master's office, a Civil War field table, furnishings related to early post offices, a display of clothing of yesteryear, maps and pictures.

30 to 40 minute tour
Open April - September
Saturdays, 1:00-4:00

For more information, write to:
Herndon Train Depot and Museum
P.O. Box 99
Herndon, VA 22070

Or contact: The President of the Historical Society of Herndon
(703) 471-9042

Advanced arrangements can be made before disabled persons visit the depot. Special tours are available to disabled visitors.

Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon)

Mount Vernon was the home of George Washington. Washington acquired the estate in 1754 and lived there until his death in 1799. The

nucleus of the mansion was constructed by Washington's father, Augustine, in 1735. Today there are 14 rooms open for viewing. The mansion contains numerous original furnishings. Ten of the outbuildings have been restored. There are three main gardens on the site. The estate has three burial areas: the original family tomb, the new tomb (where George and Martha Washington are buried), and the slave burial ground. A display of Washington family memorabilia can be seen in the Mount Vernon Museum.

2 hour tour of the Mansion and Grounds

Open November - February

Daily, 9:00-4:00

March - September

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Mount Vernon

c/o Mount Vernon Ladies Association

Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Or contact: The Media Coordinator

(703) 780-2000

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Guards on the site are available to assist people.

Pohick Church (Lorton)

Pohick Church was the parish church of Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall. George William Fairfax, George Washington, and George Mason were members of the building committee under which the church was constructed. The deed for the church was made by Daniel French, who also built the church in 1774. Pohick Church had box pews, as was the traditional arrangement in English churches. The cross in the church's pediment window was made of walnut from Mount Vernon. During the winter of 1862-1863, a company of calvary soldiers stabled their horses in the church, stripping the interior of everything that interfered with convenient use. The east wall was used for target practice. Pohick Church's organ was built by Fritz Noack in 1968-1969. Today a congregation of over 450 meet here.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-4:30

For more information, write to:
Pohick Church
9301 Richmond Highway
Lorton, VA 22079

Or call: (703) 339-6572

Special tours are given for disabled visitors by request. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The church has plans of adding a portable ramp for temporary accessibility.

Pope-Leighey House (Mount Vernon)

The Pope-Leighey House was originally located in Falls Church, Virginia. It was built in 1940 for Loren Pope by Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright believed in Usonian architecture, that people of moderate means are entitled to well-designed homes. The Pope-Leighey House was built of cypress, brick and glass. The house reflects Wright's contributions to architecture: concepts of organic unity, free and fluid space, and relation of the building and its construction materials to their natural setting. The house contains features that were uncommon when it was built, such as a flat roof, carpet, heated concrete slab floors and windows designed as an integral part of the wall. Many of the house's interior furnishings were especially designed and selected by Wright. The house was moved to Woodlawn Plantation in 1964 and donated to the National Trust by Mrs. Robert Leighey.

45 minute tour
Open March - December
Daily, 9:30-4:30
Admission fee

For more information, write to:
Pope-Leighey House
P. O. Box 37
Woodlawn Plantation
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Or contact: The Assistant Director
(703) 780-4000

Disabled visitors need to contact the site before their visit. Special tours are being developed for the disabled. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Sully Historic Site (Chantilly)

Sully was originally the home of Richard Bland Lee. The manor house was built in 1794, and furnished with fine, stylish items such as imported silver, Wilton carpets and mahogany furniture. During Lee's time, Sully was operated chiefly by slave labor. Jacob and Amy Haight, Quaker farmers from New York state, purchased Sully in 1842. Using progressive agricultural methods, the Hights turned Sully into a model farm. Today the manor house is furnished with antiques of the Federal period.

45 minute tour

Open March 16 - December

Wednesday - Monday, 11:00-5:00

January 2 - March 15

Wednesdays only, 11:00-4:00

Closed Tuesdays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

Group tours welcome with advance reservations

For more information, write to:

Sully Historic Site

c/o Fairfax County Park Authority

4030 Hummer Road

Annandale, VA 22003

Or contact: The Site Administrator

(703) 437-1794

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Disabled visitors are requested to make advanced arrangements before their visit. A van can be driven up to the entrance on the north side of the house, and a board ramp can be used across the steps. Selected items from the shop inside the historic house can, by arrangement, be brought outside so that the disabled visitor can shop. The site has a videotape which shows the second floor of the house and the dependencies. The site plans to add an exterior lift at the manor house.

Woodlawn Plantation (Mount Vernon)

George Washington bequeathed Woodlawn Plantation to his adopted daughter, Eleanor Parke Custis and his nephew, Lawrence Lewis. They commissioned Dr. William Thornton, architect of the United States Capitol, to design their Georgian style mansion. The brick mansion, which overlooks Mount Vernon and the Potomac River, was built in 1805. The estate's garden is Colonial Revival style in design. Other residents of Woodlawn were Quaker and Baptist settlers, Paul Kester (a

playwright) and Senator and Mrs. Oscar Underwood of Alabama. Today the mansion is furnished with inherited pieces from Mount Vernon, as well as elegant furnishings and paintings dating from the Federal Period.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:30-4:30

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Woodlawn Plantation

P. O. Box 37

Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Or contact: The Assistant Director

(703) 780-4000

Disabled persons requesting special assistance are encouraged to call before their visit for more information. A special tour can be arranged for the disabled visitor. Only the first floor of the mansion is handicapped accessible. There are limited rest room facilities at the site. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Booker T. Washington National Monument (Hardy)

This site is the birthplace of Booker T. Washington, a leading black educator during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The site has been restored to its general appearance during the mid-19th century. The site demonstrates pre-Civil War life in Virginia. All the buildings on the site are reconstructions. The original kitchen cabin site where Washington was born and the site of the Burroughs House have been outlined with stones.

Open year round

Daily, 8:30-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Booker T. Washington National Monument

Route 3, Box 310

Hardy, VA 24101

Or contact: The Chief Ranger
(703) 343-0666

There are special tours for disabled visitors if the staff is available; advanced arrangements are not needed. When touring the grounds, wheelchair bound visitors may need assistance from the rangers because of hilly, unpaved places. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

FREDERICK COUNTY

Belle Grove Plantation (Middletown)

Belle Grove was the home of Major Isaac Hite, Jr. and his family for more than 70 years. The mansion was built in 1794. Thomas Jefferson was actively involved in its "Pavilion Style" design. The south facade of the mansion is made of dressed limestone. Belle Grove was severely affected by the Battle of Cedar Creek, when it was General Philip Sheridan's headquarters (October 1864). Today Belle Grove is a working farm and center for the study of traditional rural crafts.

45 minute tour

Open March 15 - November 15

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Admission fee

Group rates available by prior arrangement

For more information, write to:

Belle Grove Plantation

P. O. Box 137

Middletown, VA 22645

Or call: (703) 869-2028

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. Special tours are available to the disabled visitor. There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Classes are offered in a ground floor room which is easily accessible to everyone.

Wayside Theatre (Middletown)

The Wayside Theatre building was built around the 1930s. A professional Equity theatre company was founded in Middletown in 1962 and still performs at Wayside Theatre.

Open May - October
Wednesday - Sunday, 9:00-9:00

For more information, write to:
Wayside Theatre
P. O. Box 260
Middletown, VA 22645

Or call: (703) 869-1776

Disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

FREDERICKSBURG

Chatham Manor

Chatham Manor is the brick Georgian style mansion built by William Fitzhugh in 1771. It was named after William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham. Before the Revolutionary War, the plantation was a working agricultural enterprise based on slave labor. The mansion was later named the Lacy House after its Civil War owner. During the Civil War, it served as a headquarters for federal commanders, a communications center and an artillery position during two battles, and a field hospital in which Clara Barton and Walt Whitman nursed the wounded. Yankee soldiers removed the original panelling to burn for firewood, penciled graffiti on the exposed plaster, and rode horses through the mansion. The estate shrank to 30 acres by 1900. Today under the stewardship of the National Park Service, 5 of 10 rooms in the mansion are open to the public. Exhibits describing the 15 Chatham owners and their occupations can be seen in the Dining Room. The estate's garden is reminiscent of a 1920s Colonial Revival garden.

15 minute tour
Open year round
Daily, 9:00-5:00
Closed New Year's Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:
Chatham Manor
P.O. Box 679
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Or contact: The Chief Historian
(703) 373-4461

Special tours are available to disabled individuals upon request. There is a scrapbook with photos and text on the interior of Chatham available to individuals unable to enter the mansion. There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

The Chimneys

The Chimneys is a large Georgian style town house with massive exterior chimneys. It was built in 1769 by John Glassell, a Scottish merchant. Its southwest parlor possesses unusually elaborate woodwork, with carved swags and garlands on the chimney piece and latticework friezes on the window and door frames. The remnants of a terraced garden leading toward the river survive behind the house. The Chimneys houses a restaurant and bar today.

Open year round
Daily, 11:30-11:00

For more information, write to:
The Chimneys
623 Caroline Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Or call: (703) 371-9229

Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop

Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop is an 18th and 19th-century doctor's office and apothecary shop. This shop is one of the oldest apothecary shops in the United States. Inside the apothecary shop, a visitor will find silver-plated pill bottles, a rose-water "still", and handblown glass apothecary jars painted from the inside. There are richly colored show globes in the windows. While visiting the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop, the visitor can learn the uses of leeches, lancets, snakeroot and crab claws.

20 to 30 minute tour
Open year round
Daily, 9:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop
1020 Caroline Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Or call: (703) 373-3362

The James Monroe Law Office-Museum and Memorial Library

James Monroe's first law office was built in the 1750s. It was remodeled, and an addition was added in 1962. The Law Office and Library houses a collection of Monroe's and his descendents' possessions, such as Louis XVI furniture, jewelry, silver, china, art work, a 1,000-volume book collection and 27,000 documents and maps.

20 to 40 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

The James Monroe Law Office-Museum and Memorial Library
908 Charles Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Or contact: The Curator
(703) 373-8426

There is a small stone step between one room and the hall. Wheelchair-bound visitors can be manually assisted over it. The site is having a temporary ramp built for this step. Special tours are available to disabled visitors. Blind or visually-impaired visitors need to make advanced arrangements for a "hands-on" tour. There is someone on staff responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Kenmore

Kenmore was built by Fielding Lewis for his wife, Betty, in the mid-18th century. Betty was the only sister of George Washington. Kenmore possesses three of the most gloriously decorated rooms from the Colonial period, with beautiful plaster work. It is one of the country's earliest house museums, and today is furnished with many fine period pieces. Kenmore's garden is among the country's earliest garden restorations. Visitors can enjoy tea and gingerbread in Kenmore's kitchen dependency

1 hour tour

Open March - November

Daily, 9:00-5:00

December - February

Daily, 10:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

Admission fee

Group rates available

For more information, write to:

Kenmore
1201 Washington Avenue
Fredricksburg, VA 22401

Or call: (703) 373-3381

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site. Tour guides adjust tours to meet the needs of the visitors. All programs are offered in the handicapped accessible visitor center.

Mary Washington House

This house, which was built in 1772, was bought for Mary Ball Washington by her son, George. She spent her last 17 years here. Today the Mary Washington House contains 18th-century furnishings and many of Mrs. Washington's favored possessions, including the mirror she called her "best dressing glass". Large boxwoods line the brick walkway that separates the well-tended vegetable garden from the picturesque English-style flower garden.

30 minute tour
Open year round
Daily, 9:00-5:00
Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Mary Washington House
1200 Charles Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Or contact: The Directress
(703) 373-1569

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. Special tours are available to disabled visitors. The site has a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Rising Sun Tavern

The Rising Sun Tavern was built in 1760 by George Washington's youngest brother, Charles. It was originally built as a private residence. The tavern was the heart of the town, a bustling stage coach stop and meeting place. It contained a taproom, complete with a bar cage, gambling tables, musical instruments and the innkeeper's

storeroom. Today the tavern is outfitted with furnishings of the 18th century. "Man-sized" checkers made from a whale's backbone and a stand-up desk said to have belonged to Thomas Jefferson are on display.

30 minute tour

Open April - October

Daily, 9:00-5:00

November 1 - March 31

Seasonal hours

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Rising Sun Tavern

1306 Caroline Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Or contact: The City Director of Tourism

(703) 371-1494

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit.

Saint James' House

The Saint James' House was built on plots of land that George Washington bought from his brother-in-law, Fielding Lewis. Washington sold the land to James Mercer, the first judge of the General Court in Fredericksburg. Mercer built the house in the 1760s. Today St. James' House is furnished with a collection of antiques, fine 17th and 18th-century porcelains, brass, silver, glass, pewter and noteworthy portraits. It also possesses a 19th century grandfather's clock that belonged to Daniel Webster.

45 minute tour

Open in April

Garden Week, 10:00-5:00

the first week in October

10:00-5:00

Open other times by appointment

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Saint James House

1300 Charles Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Or call: (703) 373-1569

FLUVANNA COUNTY

Old Stone Jail Museum (Palmyra)

Old Stone Jail was built in 1828 by John G. Hughes. It is said that General Hartwell Cocke's design for the jail was modeled after old English prisons. The jail was built of freestone of various shapes and colors, with walls almost three feet thick. The original slates from the Brema quarries still cover the jail's roof. The building possesses a keystone arch above the door, brick mouse-tooth cornices and patterned brick in the gables. Today the jail is filled with donations and loans of historic interest. The Entrance Hall is furnished as an introduction to the past in Fluvanna County. The Patriot's Room is filled with momentos of soldiers and statesmen. In the upstairs hall (Family Room) there are articles for the home displayed, such as furniture, cloths and dolls. The old prisoner's cage has been converted into the Farm Room, which is filled with implements from former years of agricultural and commercial life. Displayed in the Documents Room are priceless books, maps and papers. The jail faces Confederate Park and is surrounded by the Sallie Gray Shepherd Garden.

30 minute tour

Open June - September

Saturdays, 12:00-4:00

Sundays, 2:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Old Stone Jail Museum

Rt. 2, Box 171

Palmyra, VA 22963

Or call: (804) 842-3378

The jail is not handicapped accessible, but one of the other historic buildings on the site has a ramped side entrance and a wide entrance way.

GRAYSON COUNTY

Jeff Matthews Memorial Museum (Galax)

There are two authentically restored log cabins on the Jeff Matthews Memorial Site. The first cabin (14' x 14') was constructed in 1834. It was the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Austin. The second cabin

(18' x 18') was built in the 1860s, 12 feet in front on the first one. The cabins were originally built eight miles from Galax, near the New River. They were dismantled and reconstructed behind the new museum building. The cabins are furnished with items used during the period in which they were inhabited. In the new museum building, the visitor can find on display one of the first pianos in Galax, a covered wagon, farm implements, a coin collection, an old telephone exchange and fossils from Alaska.

1 to 2 hour tour

Open year round

Wednesday - Friday, 1:00-5:00

Saturday, 11:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-4:00

Closed Monday and Tuesday

For more information, write to:

Jeff Matthews Memorial Museum

606 W. Stuart Drive

Galax, VA 24333

Or contact: The Curator

(703) 236-7874

Special tours are offered to people with disabilities.

HAMPTON

Fort Monroe Casemate Museum

Fort Monroe is the largest stone fort ever built in the United States, and the only moat encircled fort still used by the United States Army. The fort was named in honor of President James Monroe. Robert E. Lee and Edgar Allen Poe were stationed at Fort Monroe. Jefferson Davis was imprisoned at the Fort after the Civil War ended. His casemated prison cell is a focal point within the museum. The history of Fort Monroe and the Coast Artillery Corps are depicted in the museum. Its exhibits include weapons, uniforms, models and drawings by Frederick Remington and R. F. Zogbaum. The fort also serves as the Army's Coast Artillery Museum.

1 1/2 hour tour of entire fort

Open year round

Daily, 10:30-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:
 Fort Monroe Casemate Museum
 P. O. Box 341
 Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Or call: (804) 727-3973

St. John's Church and Parish Museum

St. John's Church was the fourth parish church of the Elizabeth City Parish. It is the oldest English-speaking parish in continuous service in America. Elizabeth City Parish was established in 1610, at the founding of the settlement of Kecoughtan. Its first minister was Reverend William Mease. The present church structure (built in 1728) was built in a cruciform design; the belfry was added in 1762. During the War of 1812, the building was severely damaged. In 1825, when there was a revival of interest in the church and when restoration of the building was beginning, the parish's name was changed to St. John's. In 1861 the church building went up in flames and was left in ruins. After the Civil War the church was rebuilt, but no attempt was made to restore the church's Colonial character. The Church's communion silver was made in London in 1618; it is probably the oldest English communion silver in America. The Pocahontas window in St. John's was given to the church in part by the Indian students at Hampton Institute. Today the parish numbers about 900 communicants.

20 minute tour
 Open year round
 Monday - Friday, 9:00-3:00
 Saturday, 9:00-12:00
 Sunday for services

For more information, write to:
 St. John's Church and Parish Museum P.O. Box 313
 100 West Queen's Way
 Hampton, VA 23669

Or contact: The Parish Historian
 (804) 722-2567

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. Variations of the regular tour are offered to those who need it. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The parish plans to add a ramp in order to better handicapped accessibility.

Syms-Eaton Museum/ Kecoughtan Indian Village

The Syms-Eaton Museum was built in 1966. Here audio-visual presentations tell the story of historic Hampton. The Kecoughtan Indian Village is a re-creation of an Eastern Woodland Indian Village. Visitors learn about the lifestyles, culture and history of Kecoughtan Indians who inhabited Hampton 400 years ago.

40 to 50 minute tour

Open year round

Monday - Friday, 10:00-4:00

Saturday - Sunday, 10:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Lee-Jackson-King Day, Easter Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Syms-Eaton Museum/ Kecoughtan Indian Village

418 W. Mercury Boulevard

Hampton, VA 23666

Or contact: The Education Coordinator

(804) 747-6248

Special tours are available for disabled visitors. A hands-on program for blind visitors is available. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

HANOVER COUNTYHanover Courthouse, Old Jail and Hanover Theatre (Hanover)

Hanover Courthouse was built in 1735. It is an arcaded structure, topped with a tall hipped roof. Hanover Courthouse, the second oldest courthouse in the country, is still an active courthouse. It was the scene of a case known as "The Parsons' Cause", in which Patrick Henry, then an unknown lawyer, delivered a fiery summation speech considered by some historians as the first attack on the tyranny of George III. The Old Jail was built between 1835 and 1840 of river stone from the nearby South Anna. The Hanover Tavern was built in 1723. It was owned by John Shelton, Patrick Henry's father-in-law. Today the tavern houses the nation's first dinner theatre. A Colonial dinner is served in candle-lit dining rooms, followed by an evening of professional theatre by the Barksdale Theatre.

1 hour tour

Open by reservations year round Daily, 10:00-8:30

A free tour given with prior arrangements

For more information, write to:
 Hanover Tavern
 P. O. Box 7
 Hanover, VA 23069

Or contact: The Vice-President of Barksdale Theatre
 (804) 537-5333

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. Special tours are offered to disabled visitors. There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Sycamore Tavern (Montpelier)

The Sycamore Tavern, with its vernacular architecture, was built about 1732. The building has been a residence, a tavern (Shelburne Tavern), a school cafeteria and classroom, a community library and a community services building. Today the building houses the Florence L. Page Memorial Library, which has over 5,000 volumes.

30 minute tour
 Open year round
 Wednesday - Friday, 9:00-4:30
 Saturday, 10:00-1:00

For more information, write to:
 Sycamore Tavern/ Florence L. Page Memorial Library
 Rt. 33
 Montpelier, VA 23192

Or contact: The Librarian
 (804) 883-5355

HENRICO COUNTY

Meadow Farm (Glen Allen)

Meadow Farm is a living historical farm/museum/park. The farm house was built in 1810. It was in this area were the threat of an 1800 insurrection, lead by a slave named Gabriel, happened. Gabriel and his followers had planned to take over Richmond. The residents of Meadow Farm prevented the revolt from happening.

40 minute tour

Open March - December
Tuesday - Sunday, 12:00-4:00

For more information, write to:
Meadow Farm
Crump Memorial Park
Box 27032
Richmond, VA 23273

Or contact: The Assistant Curator
(804) 672-5100

The disabled visitor needs to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site. Special tours are available for disabled visitors. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Handicapped accessible rest room facilities are available on the site. The site is designing a handicapped accessible visitor center that will be built in the future.

HENRY COUNTY

Stoneleigh (Stanleytown)

Stoneleigh, an Elizabethan-Tudor mansion built in the English country house style, was constructed in 1927. It was the home of the late Governor of Virginia (1954-1958) and Mrs. Thomas B. Stanley, Sr. The mansion is surrounded by Elizabethan gardens. Displayed inside the mansion are 18th-century English and American reproductions, family portraits, photographs, objects d'art, books and fine accessories. Stoneleigh was acquired by Ferrum College in 1980.

1 hour tour
Open year round
Monday - Friday, 8:30-4:30
Admission fee

For more information, write to:
Stoneleigh of Ferrum College
P. O. Box 401
Stanleytown, VA 24168

Or contact: The Operations Manager
(703) 629-5561

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

HOPEWELL

Appomattox Manor

Appomattox Manor is the site of one of Virginia's earliest settlements, Bermuda City (1613). The plantation house was built in 1763, and was the home of Dr. Richard Eppes and his family. Appomattox Manor was the site of the largest logistical operation of the Civil War. General U. S. Grant's headquarters was at Appomattox Manor between June 1864 and March 1865. His restored cabin is on the site.

20 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 8:30-4:30

Closed New Year's Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Appomattox Manor

Petersburg National Battlefield

Pecan Avenue and Cedar Lane

Hopewell, VA 23860

Or call: (804) 458-9504

There is a parking space in the employee parking area available for the elderly or disabled, upon request.

Flowerdew Hundred Plantation

Flowerdew Hundred Plantation was one of the earliest English settlements in the New World. This area was inhabited thousands of years earlier by native American Indians. The land was granted to Governor George Yeardly in 1618. The settlement survived the devastating Indian massacre of 1622 and became a thriving agricultural unit, producing corn and tobacco. Archaeological work has been under way since 1971. Thousands of artifacts dating from 9,000 B. C. to the Civil War period have been found, and many are displayed in the museum. A fully operational 18th-century style windmill has been built to commemorate the original mill built in 1621. Several 17th-century dwellings are being reconstructed by costumed workers using period tools and technology.

2 1/2 to 3 hour tour

Open April - November

Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00-5:00

or by appointment

Admission fee

Special rates for organized groups with reservations

For more information, write to:

Flowerdew Hundred Plantation
1617 Flowerdew Hundred Road
Hopewell, VA 23860

Or contact: The Executive Director
(804) 541-8897

Disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit. Special tours are available to them. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Weston Manor

This antebellum plantation house, representing late-Georgian style plantation architecture, was built in 1735. It is one of the few plantation homes remaining on the lower Appomattox River. This three-story, white framed house was the home of the Eppes family. There is a fireplace in each room, and hand-carved woodwork and panelling in the 25 foot long entrance hall. There is evidence of the original wooden pegs in the floorboards. The window panels contain much of the original glass. The house possesses a "funeral door" which is large enough for a coffin to be brought in and taken from the house.

30 to 45 minute tour

Grounds open year round

Daily during daylight hours

The House is open Wednesday and Thursday Historic Garden Week,
9:00-5:00

Open other times for special events like art exhibits

The House is also open for tours by appointment

For more information, write to:

Weston Manor
P. O. Box 851
Hopewell, VA 23860

Or contact: The Director of Tourism, City of Hopewell
(804) 541-2206 or 458-4882

KING WILLIAM COUNTYPamunkey Indian Museum

The Pamunkey Indian Reservation is the site of 7,000 years of aboriginal occupation. The museum displays pottery, beadwork and woodwork.

Self-guided tour

Open year round

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-4:00

For more information, write to:

Pamunkey Indian Museum

Rt. 1, Box 800

King William, VA 23086

Or call: (804) 843-4792

LANCASTER COUNTYHistoric Christ Church (Irvington)

Historic Christ Church was constructed in 1734 entirely at the expense of its donor, Robert "King" Carter. The church was built in a cruciform design, with a coved and groined ceiling. The three feet thick walls were made of bricks from Carter's kilns. The elimination of the gable and a combination of two pitches of the roof produced a "Chinese Swag" or pagoda-like effect. The church possesses a three-decker pulpit, and its original 26 high-backed pews (being the only Colonial church in Virginia that has all its original pews). Notices of Royal Proclamation and laws were once posted on the doors of the Historic Christ Church. The church building has been used for services during the summer months since 1859. The Carter Reception Center, beside the Historic Christ Church, is a memorial to Robert Hill Carter and Alice Blair Carter. It contains artifacts from Corotoman, the home of John Carter I. Artifacts from the construction of the church, and photographs of its restoration are also displayed in the Reception Center.

30 minute tour

Historic Christ Church is open year round

The Reception Center is open

April - November

Guides are on duty daily, 10:00-4:00

Closed Christmas Day
Group tours may be arranged

For more information, write to:
Historic Christ Church
P.O. Box 24
Irvington, VA 22480

Or contact: The Executive Secretary
(804) 438-6855

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours for the disabled visitor are available if requested. A portable ramp is available upon request.

LEXINGTON

George C. Marshall Museum and Library

This museum traces General George C. Marshall's life from his boyhood in Pennsylvania, and his cadetship at VMI, through his history-making planning operations in France during World War I. For his role in the "Marshall Plan", George Marshall became the first professional soldier to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Marshall Library houses the personal and public papers of General Marshall, as well as the collections of many of his friends and associates.

1 hour tour

Open March 1 - November 1

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00
Sunday, 2:00-5:00

November 2 - February 29

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-4:00
Sunday, 2:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:
George C. Marshall Museum and Library
P. O. Box 1600
Lexington, VA 24450-1600

Or call: (703) 463-7103

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The site plans to make the rest rooms more handicapped accessible.

Henry Street Playhouse

The Henry Street Playhouse was built in 1856. Today it is an active playhouse. It is given a 19th-century appearance with foot lights, 19th-century graphics and a front curtain decorated with ads from local businesses. The Playhouse's actors and stage hands are organized as a stock company for a summer theatre series.

Open mid June to mid-August
Daily, 10:00-10:00

For more information, write to:
Henry Street Playhouse
P. O. Box 1087
Lexington, VA 24450

Or call: (703) 463-8637

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

LOUDOUN COUNTYAmerican Work Horse Museum (Paeonian Springs)

This museum commemorates the role of the American work horse. The site is made up of several buildings. The Office and Library houses official documents, pamphlets, pictures and literature about the work horse. The Implement Buildings contain displays of plows. One plow was brought from Scotland by an early American settler and another was used by General George Marshall. Also displayed in these buildings are implements for preparing seed beds, for planting and seeding, and for cultivating and threshing. The site also has a Blacksmith's Shop, a Harness Shop, a Veterinary Building and a Country Kitchen. Two Clydesdale horses live on the site.

1 to 1 1/2 hour tour
Open April - October
Wednesdays, 9:00-5:00
Also open year round by appointment

For more information, write to:
American Work Horse Museum
Box 88
Paeonian Springs, VA 22129

Or contact: The President
(703) 338-6290

There is someone on staff responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours are available for the disabled. All buildings on the site are at ground level.

Oatlands Plantation (Leesburg)

Oatlands was built after the turn of the 19th century by George Carter, great-grandson of Robert "King" Carter. The three-story section of the mansion was flanked by 2 two-story half octagonal staircase wings. Carter's son, in 1897, sold the Oatlands mansion and 60 acres to the founder of The Washington Post, who sold it 6 years later to Mr. William Corcoran Eustis. The Eustises renovated the mansion and revitalized the overgrown walled gardens, extending the terraces, and adding a boxwood walk, a reflecting pool and a tea house. In 1865 Eustis's daughters presented the 261-acre estate and mansion to the National Trust. Today Oatlands mansion's octagonal Drawing Room is filled with French, English and American antiques.

1 1/2 to 2 hour tour
Open mid March - late December
Monday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00
Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:
Oatlands Plantation
Route 2, Box 352
Leesburg, VA 22075

Or contact: The Director of the Education Department
(703) 777-3174

The staff makes every effort to facilitate the reception of disabled visitors. Persons requiring special assistance are encouraged to call the property prior to their visit. Special tours are offered to disabled visitors. There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The site is developing a slide presentation to show to individuals who cannot use the stairs.

LYNCHBURG

Anne Spencer House

The Anne Spencer House was built in 1903. Anne Spencer (1882-1975) was an internationally recognized black poet of the Harlem Renaissance period in the 1920s. Anne's husband, Edward, built a smaller house (called "EdanKraal" by Anne Spencer) in back of the main house where Anne could write. The greenstone chimney, fireplace, floor and terrace in EdanKraal came from the neighboring greenstone quarry. Anne's garden served as a source of inspiration for many of her poems.

45 to 60 minute tour
Open by appointment

For more information, write to:
Anne Spencer House
1313 Pierce Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Or call: (804) 846-0517

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Carter Glass House

This Federal style house was built in 1827 for John Willis. It was later (1907 to 1925) the home of Carter Glass, Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of the Treasury and United States Senator. Today the house contains the offices of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Open year round
Monday - Friday, 8:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
Carter Glass House
605 Clay Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504

Or call: (804) 845-7301

St. Paul's Episcopal Church's fellowship hall and education building are fully handicapped accessible.

Lynchburg Museum/ Old Courthouse Museum

This Greek Revival style courthouse, designed by William Ellison, was built in 1855. The Old Courthouse was restored between 1976 and 1978 by the City of Lynchburg. Today the museum interprets area history, from the mid-18th century to the present. The permanent galleries trace the community's development, and the changing exhibits highlight people and events significant to Lynchburg.

40 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 1:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Lynchburg Museum

901 Court Street, Box 60

Lynchburg, VA 24505

Or call: (804) 847-1459

Miller-Clayton House

The Miller-Clayton House was built in 1791 for John Miller. The house is a typical post-Colonial Pediment frame dwelling. It was moved from its original site in 1936. Today the house is owned by the Lynchburg Historical Foundation, and is operated by the Lynchburg Museum System. The site's interpretive mission is geared at 1786 to 1800, using living history techniques.

45 minute tour

Open April 26 -October

Thursday - Monday, 1:00-4:00

For more information, write to:

Miller-Clayton House

c/o Lynchburg Museum System

P. O. Box 60

Lynchburg, VA 24505

Or contact: The Museum Administrator

(804) 947-1459

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. It is possible to offer living history programs outdoors for mobility impaired visitors.

Point of Honor

Point of Honor was built on Daniel's Hill above the James River in 1815. This Federal style mansion was the home of Dr. George Cabell, Sr., the doctor of Patrick Henry. The house possesses an unusual octagon-bay facade and finely crafted interior woodwork. In the mid-19th century the house was remodeled in the Italianate style. Today careful restoration is being done to revive the mansion's original appearance, with its distinctive motifs, furnishings, and rich contrasting colors. The gardens, grounds and auxiliary buildings are also being restored. Point of Honor is located at 112 Cabell Street.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 1:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Admission fee

Discount to group tours with reservations

For more information, write to:

Point of Honor

P. O. Box 60

Lynchburg, VA 24505

Or contact: The Museum Coordinator

(804) 847-1459

Disabled visitors need to call the site before visiting, to make sure their needs can be accommodated.

South River Meeting House

The Quakers in the Lynchburg area formally organized as the South River Meeting in 1757. They built their first meeting house, a log structure, the same year. This was the first place of worship in or near the city (except for the Anglican Chapel, 1765-1775) until the Methodists built a church in 1806. The first meeting house was burned in 1768; a frame one was erected in 1791. The Quakers built a stone building in 1798 which remained the site of Quaker worship and activity until the 1840s. In the 1820s the Quakers started leaving the area. The meeting house was abandoned and began to fall into ruins. It became the site of much of the action of the Battle of Lynchburg (June 17 - 18, 1781). Union troops encamped near the ruins of the meeting house. The Presbyterians bought the ruins and the 10-acre site in 1899. They restored the meeting house and held their first service there in 1901, as the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. When the new sanctuary was completed in 1950, the congregation voted

to turn the Old Quaker Meeting House into an historic shrine.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-3:00

Closed on major holidays

For more information, write to:

South River Meeting House

5810 Fort Avenue

Lynchburg, VA 24502

Or call: (804) 239-2548

If help is needed in negotiating the steps, disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit.

MANASSAS

The Manassas City Museum

The Manassas City Museum is housed in a Victorian Romanesque style building, constructed in 1896. The building housed the community's first national bank. From 1912 to 1949 it housed a law office. Today the building is a museum which displays and interprets artifacts from the history of Manassas and Prince William County. The museum features a Confederate battle flag carried by Prince William County's Calvary, as well as weapons and personal effects from the Civil War. In addition to Civil War artifacts, the museum displays children's toys from long ago.

30 to 60 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 10:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

The Manassas City Museum

9406 Main Street

Manassas, VA 22110

Or contact: The Director of the Manassas City Museum

(703) 368-1873

Some of the museum's activities are held in areas accessible to the disabled. There is staff on hand to aid these visitors. Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. The

museum has a restored elevator, but it is most likely not handicapped accessible. The city of Manassas plans to build a new museum facility that will be handicapped accessible at all times.

Stone House

The Stone House is a notable landmark on the Manassas Battlefield. It was built in the 1820s as an inn, serving teamsters who drove wagons along the turnpike. During the Civil War, the house was used as a hospital. The Stone House has been restored, and is furnished to resemble its appearance in 1861. The house still possesses its original stone walls, window and door frames and several of its upstairs floor boards.

10 to 15 minute tour
 The Grounds are open year round
 The Stone House is open June - August
 Daily, 10:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
 Stone House
 Manassas National Battlefield Park
 P. O. Box 1830
 Manassas, VA 22110

Or contact: The Chief Historian
 (703) 754-7107

With advanced arrangements, special tours are offered to disabled visitors.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Middlesex County Museum/ Old Clerk's Office (Saluda)

The Old Clerk's Office was built about 1825. This two-room structure first became a county museum in 1941, as a Federal Art Project of the WPA during Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. This was the first county museum in Virginia. When funds were no longer available, the museum reverted to office use. The Old Clerk's office became a permanent museum in 1975. The thick walls, inside metal shutters, triple doors and specially installed iron window bars give maximum security to the numerous historical items on display. Today the museum houses Indian relics found in the county, tools, household articles, books, clothing and many other items.

1 hour tour

Open June - August

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 2:00-4:00

Also open Historic Garden Week and by appointment

For more information, write to:

Middlesex County Museum

Box 135

Saluda, VA 23149

Or call: (804) 758-2273

Special tours can be arranged for disabled visitors. Handicapped accessible rest rooms are available on the sites. Middlesex County plans to add a ramp to the museum.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Smithfield Plantation (Blacksburg)

Smithfield Plantation's manor house, built in 1774, is an L-shaped framed structure. It was built by William Preston, a Revolutionary War officer, a member of the House of Burgesses, and a pioneer of western expansion and colonization. The house possesses the architectural sophistication of a Tidewater plantation house in its generous scale and refined detailing. Inside the house, the furnishings include a full range of late 18th and early 19th-century decorative arts.

Open April 15 - November 1

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Smithfield Plantation

Route 2, South Gate Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Or call: (703) 951-2060

NEW KENT COUNTY

St. Peter's Parish Church (New Kent Courthouse)

St. Peter's Parish Church was built in 1701 by William Hughes, a carpenter, and Cornelius Hall, a brick layer. The church's tower was built between 1739 and 1741 by William Walker. St. Peter's Parish is famed for its association with Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. President and Mrs. Washington were married at the St. Peter's Parish site, but not necessarily in the church.

30 minute tour

Open on Sundays, 11:00 a.m.

Open other times by appointment

For more information, write to:

St. Peter's Parish Church

Rt. 1, Box 139A

New Kent Courthouse, VA 23124

Or call: (804) 932-4846

Disabled individuals need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site. The parish is considering adding ramps to the historic church and handicapped accessible rest rooms to another building on the site.

NORFOLK

Hermitage Foundation Museum

The Hermitage Foundation Museum is located in an English Tudor style house, built in 1908. The house was built as the summer home of William and Florence Sloane. Over the years, the house has undergone extensive additions and remodeling. In its Gothic Drawing Room, a visitor can find English oak panelling and massive beams, accented by carved designs. The room also possesses a carved limestone fireplace depicting the Crusades and a rood screen. There are massive iron locks, bolts and hinges on the doors of the drawing room. Today the museum displays oriental and 16th-century European Art. The Sloane House sits on 12 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds which are open free to the public during museum hours.

1 hour tour

Open year round

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

The Hermitage Foundation Museum

7637 N. Shore Road

Norfolk, VA 23505

Or contact: The Assistant Director

(804) 423-2052

Disabled individuals need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site. Special tours are offered to disabled visitors.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Borough Church was built in 1739. It is the oldest building in Norfolk. The church was struck and partially burned by the British in 1776. A cannon ball still remains embedded in its southern wall. In 1832 the church was reconsecrated and renamed "St. Paul's". The interior was remodeled in a Victorian style in 1892, but was later (1912) restored to the earlier Colonial period, with certain "Victorian carry-overs". The church possesses five stained glass memorial windows. The Lamp Memorial Window was made by the Tiffany Company. The Church Yard is surrounded by a wall (built in 1759). Over two-thirds of the tombstones and monuments in the yard are gone because many were made of wood. Excavations show that the graves are tiered three and four deep. There are 274 listed graves in the yard. The Parish House, which houses a museum on its second floor, was built in 1906. The museum possesses the chair in which John Hancock sat while signing the Declaration of Independence. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is still an active parish today.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00-4:00

For more information, write to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

201 St. Paul's Boulevard

Norfolk, VA 23510

Or call: (804) 627-4353

ORANGE COUNTY

The Exchange Hotel (Gordonsville)

The Exchange Hotel was built in 1860. This Greek Revival style hotel has high ceilings and well appointed commodious parlors. The hotel was once used as a tavern. During the Civil War, the Exchange Hotel was used as the main building of a Confederate receiving hospital, providing for the wounded that poured in from Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville and the Wilderness Campaigns. A room in the hotel has been restored to reflect the terrible days of the Civil War, with a hospital bed and medicine cabinet. The hotel served as a stopping place for travellers until the end of World War II.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and
Christmas Day

Admission fee

Group rates available

For more information, write to:

The Exchange Hotel
400 E. Main Street
Gordonsville, VA 22942

Or call: (703) 832-2944

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The first floor of the hotel is accessible to everyone. The site has a handicapped accessible visitor center.

The James Madison Museum (Orange)

The James Madison Museum is housed in the Price House. The museum contains Madison possessions and objects of the era.

30 minute tour

Open March - November

Daily, 10:00-12:00, 1:00-5:00

December - February,

Daily, 10:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00

Closed Weekends

For more information, write to:
 The James Madison Museum
 129 Caroline Street
 Orange, VA 22960

Or contact: The Administrator
 (703) 672-1776

There is a volunteer on staff who is responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Montpelier (Montpelier Station)

Montpelier was the home of President James Madison and his wife, Dolley. They retired to this 2,700-acre estate, and Madison was buried here. The mansion was built in about 1760. Dolley Madison sold Montpelier in 1844 and most of its furnishings. The estate was purchased by William du Pont, Sr. in 1901. He made vast alterations to it. The mansion was enlarged and additional barns, greenhouses, staff houses, a saw mill, a blacksmith's shop, a dairy and a train station were built. Mrs. du Pont created a two and a half acre formal garden. When Marion du Pont Scott inherited the estate, she added a steeple chase and initiated the Montpelier Hunt Races. For many years the mansion was a private hunt club residence. The National Trust acquired the property in 1984 and opened it to the public March 16, 1987. Today the 55-room mansion and more than one hundred other structures and features (stables, bowling alley, the Madison's temple and graves) are on view to the public.

1 1/2 hour tour

Open year round

Daily, 10:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

The Mansion is closed Montpelier Race Day (early November)

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Montpelier

P.O. Box 67

Montpelier Station, VA 22957

Or contact: The Assistant Director
 (703) 672-2728

For more specific information, disabled persons requiring special assistance are encouraged to call the property before their visit. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The tour is designed to accommodate all. On the site, there are shuttle buses with lifts for wheelchair-bound

visitors.

PATRICK COUNTY

Reynolds Homestead (Critz)

The Reynolds Homestead, the home of Hardin William and Nancy Cox Reynolds, was built in 1843. Hardin Reynolds was a successful farmer, merchant, banker and tobacco manufacturer. He was also the father of R. J. Reynolds. In 1969 Nancy S. Reynolds deeded 710 acres of the homestead site to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Incorporated for the establishment of the Reynolds Homestead Research Center. In 1980 she deeded the rest of the land to the Virginia Tech Foundation. The house was authentically restored in 1970. The Reynolds descendants contributed many of the original furnishings, including a rosewood grand piano made by Henry Gaehele of Baltimore in the early 1840s, Victoria love seats, a Victorian buffet etagere and Empire sideboard and table.

30 minute tour

Open March - November,

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00-3:00

Saturday - Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Closed Monday and December through February

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Reynolds Homestead

Rt. 1, Box 21

Critz, VA 24082-9707

Or contact: The Executive Director

(703) 694-7181

All classes are held in the learning center which is accessible to the disabled. There are handicapped accessible rest room facilities available at the site.

PETERSBURG

Centre Hill Mansion

Centre Hill Mansion was built in 1823. It has the elegance of the Victorian era with its glittering chandeliers, fine marble mantels and

detailed carvings. Extensive remodeling was done to the mansion in the 1840s and in 1901, making it a splendid example of architectural evaluation. The 25-roomed mansion is furnished with local antiques, including a 1886 Knabe Art Grand piano in the parlor. Today the Virginia Chapter of the Victorian Society in America makes the mansion its headquarters. The mansion is located on Centre Hill Court.

45 minute tour

Open March 1 - October 31

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-4:00

Sunday, 12:30-4:00

November 1 - February 28

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 12:30-4:00

For more information, write to:

Centre Hill Mansion

c/o Petersburg Department of Tourism

P. O. Box 2107

Petersburg, VA 23803

Or contact: The Director of Tourism

(804) 733-2400

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site. A special lecture tour is available in the Blandford Interpretation Center for those who cannot take the regular tour. Petersburg's Department of tourism is discussing videotaping the tours of all its sites for those who are unable to tour the facilities. The videotaped tours will be shown at the Blandford Interpretation Center, which is handicapped accessible.

Farmers Bank

The Farmers Bank was built between 1817 and 1818. From 1817 to 1865, this building housed the Petersburg branch of the Farmers Bank of Virginia. It is one of the oldest banks in America. The bank printed its own money and loaned it to Petersburg's citizens at 6% interest. Today the bank houses Petersburg's Information Center. The Farmers Bank is located at 19 Bollingbrook Street.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
 Farmers Bank
 c/o Petersburg Department of Tourism
 P. O. Box 2107
 Petersburg, VA 23804

Or contact: The Director of Tourism
 (804) 733-2400

Disabled individuals need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. A special lecture tour is offered in the Blandford Interpretation Center for those who cannot participate in the tour. The Petersburg Information Center will be moving into a new location that will be handicapped accessible.

Old Blandford Church and Interpretation Center

Old Blandford Church was built in 1735. The church possesses 15 stained glass windows personally designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. It is one of only five buildings known in which every window is an original Tiffany creation. The church was used as a field hospital during the Civil War. In 1901 it was restored as a Confederate Shrine honoring the 30,000 victims buried in its surrounding cemetery. The cemetery displays a wide variety of historical markers and funerary art. The Blandford Interpretation Center is located near the church. Old Blandford Church is located at 319 South Crater Road.

45 minute tour

Open March 1 - October 31

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

Sunday, 12:30-5:00

November 1 - February 28

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 12:30-4:00

For more information, write to:
 Old Blandford Church and Interpretation Center
 c/o Petersburg Department of Tourism
 P. O. Box 2107
 Petersburg, VA 23803

Or contact: The Director of Tourism
 (804) 733-2400

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. Special lecture tours and programs are offered to the disabled in the Blandford Interpretation Center.

Siege Museum (The Exchange Building)

The Siege Museum is housed in the Exchange Building. This Greek Revival building was built in 1842. The Exchange Building was the city's cotton and tobacco auction house. The building had an open arcade where products were displayed and traded. Public meetings took place in the domed hall above. When the building was converted into a police court the arcades were closed in. Today the Siege Museum documents the human side of the Civil War. A film narrated by a native, Joseph Cotten, is shown here, dramatizing the effects of the War on the civilians who stayed behind, the industry and the city itself. The Siege Museum is located at 15 West Bank Street.

45 minute tour

Open March 1 - October 31

Monday - Saturday, 9:00-4:30

Sunday, 12:30-4:30

November 1 - February 28

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:30

Sunday, 12:30-4:30

For more information, write to:

Siege Museum

c/o Petersburg Department of Tourism

P. O. Box 2107

Petersburg, VA 23804

Or contact: The Director of Tourism

(804) 733-2400

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the museum. Special lecture tours are offered at the Blandford Interpretation Center for those who cannot view the building. Plans are under way to install an elevator.

Trapezium House

The Trapezium House was built about 1817 by an Irish bachelor, Charles O'Hara. O'Hara believed the superstition of his West Indian servant, that ghosts and evil spirits inhabited right angles. He built his home in the shape of a trapezium which has no right angles and no parallel lines. The house has been restored to reflect the lifestyle of O'Hara during the summer of 1817.

30 to 45 minute tour

Open March 1 - October 30

Monday - Saturday, 9:30-3:30

Sunday, 12:30-3:30

For more information, write to:
Trapezium House
c/o Petersburg Department of Tourism
P. O. Box 2107
Petersburg, VA 23804

Or contact: The Director of Tourism
(804) 733-2400

There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the house. A special lecture tour is offered at the Blandford Interpretation Center for those who cannot view the house.

PORTSMOUTH

Hill House

The Hill House was built about 1830 by Captain John Thompson. This four-story house is an English-basement type structure. Thompson's adopted son, John Thompson Hill, became the second owner of the house. Today the Hill House is the headquarters of the Portsmouth Historical Society.

20 to 30 minute tour
Open March - December
Tuesday - Sunday, 1:00-4:00
Admission fee

For more information, write to:
Hill House
221 North Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Or contact: The President of the Portsmouth Historical Society
(804) 393-8591

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Weems-Botts Museum (Dumfries)

The Weems House dates back to around 1798. This small section of the present house (comprising the Weems bookstore and garret) predates its

purchase by Parson Mason Locke Weems, a bookseller, in 1798. Weems used the building for a bookshop, depot and over night lodging. This part of the building is one of the oldest existent structures in Dumfries. In 1802 Weems sold the property to Benjamin Botts, a lawyer. The Weems House section of the present building is made of half-timber construction with its brick nogging in place. The ceiling beams, rail and bannisters over the stair-well and most of the flooring have been restored. The building's porch style dates back to the turn-of-the century. The porch wing was enclosed in the 20th century to provide extra bedroom space. The room to the rear of the Weems wing was constructed as a 20th-century kitchen, which had no modern conveniences other than elementary electric outlets. The late 19th-century section (housing the Botts Museum) has been modified only to the extent of closing a door into the Weems wing and closing up a puncture in the chimney wall.

30 minute tour

Open during winter months

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-4:00

during summer months

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 2:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Weems-Botts Museum

Merchant Park

300 Duke Street

Dumfries, VA 22026

Or contact: The Curator (703) 221-3346

RICHMOND

Agecroft Hall

Richmond's Agecroft was built between 1925 and 1928. The original Tudor manor house was built in England during the 15th century. It was rescued from certain destruction by a prominent Richmond businessman, T. C. Williams, Jr. He had the mansion dismantled, moved and rebuilt in Richmond along the James River, and established an endowment for a museum. The furnishings in the mansion are authentic and represent the era in which Agecroft Hall first flourished in Lancashire, England. The gardens represent the same period. The site possesses a formal garden (designed by Charles Gillette and reminiscent of one at Hampton Court), an herb garden, a knot garden, a

cutting garden and numerous boxwood walks.

50 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 2:00-5:00

Closed Mondays

Admission fee

Special rates for children and groups

For more information, write to:

Agecroft Hall

4305 Sulgrave Road

Richmond, VA 23221

Or contact: The Director

(804) 353-4241

The site is in the process of building a permanent ramp.

Carpenter Center for Performing Arts/ Loew's Theatre

Loew's Theatre was designed by John Eberson in about 1928 as a movie palace. The design was influenced by Moorish and Spanish Baroque architecture. The Churrigueresque facades and the smooth ceiling, on which special lights created an illusion of a starry night sky with moving clouds, gave an effect of an open Spanish plaza. Today the theatre is used as a booking house, and is the home of the Richmond Symphony, Richmond Ballet and Virginia Opera.

Open at performance time

For more information, write to:

Carpenter Center for Performing Arts/ Loew's Theatre

525 E. Grace St., 4th floor

Richmond, VA 23219

Or call: (804) 782-3930

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The theatre entrance is at street level.

The Jefferson Hotel

The Jefferson Hotel was built in 1895. The hotel is a blend of Louis XVI and Colonial Renaissance architecture. It was the dream of Major Lewis Ginter. He commissioned architects from New York, Carerre and Hastings, to design his grand hotel. The hotel lobby is graced by

E. V. Valentine's statue of Thomas Jefferson. Legend has it, the hotel's grand staircase was the model for the staircase in "Gone With the Wind". The hotel's furnishings and decor were chosen to compliment the charm and personality of the hotel. Today the Jefferson is one of Sheraton's grandest hotels.

Open year round
Daily, all hours

For more information, write to:
The Jefferson Sheraton Hotel
Franklin and Adams Streets
Richmond, VA 23220

Or contact: The Sales Department
(804) 788-8000

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the hotel. Special tours are offered to disabled visitors. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The front entrance to the hotel is even with the street level.

John Marshall House

The John Marshall House was built in 1790. It was the home of John Marshall during the 45 years he served as Secretary of State, Ambassador to France and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The John Marshall House is the only surviving 18th century brick house in Richmond. The house possesses an extensive collection of Marshall family furnishings and memorabilia. It also features several important examples of late 18th-century Virginia furniture.

30 to 45 minute tour
Open year round
Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00
Sunday, 1:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
The John Marshall House
Ninth and Marshall Streets
Richmond, VA 23219

Or contact: The Site Administrator
(804) 648-7998

It is advisable for disabled individuals to make advanced arrangements before their visit.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

The Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site commemorates the life of an unusually gifted woman. Although she was a female, black and physically handicapped, Maggie Walker achieved success in the world of business and finance. Under her leadership, the Independent Order of St. Luke expanded from a fraternal beneficial society to an insurance company, owning a newspaper (of which she was the editor), a bank (of which she was the president) and a department store. The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank continues today as Consolidated Bank and Trust, making it the oldest surviving black-operated bank in the United States. Maggie Walker and her family lived in the two-story brick house, which serves as a memorial to her, from 1904 to 1934. It is furnished with Walker family possessions. The Maggie L. Walker House is located at 110-1/2 East Leigh Street.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Thursday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

3215 E. Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23223

Or call: (804) 780-1380

Special tours are offered to disabled visitors. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. A photo album is available in the house for those who are unable to take the whole tour. There is staff on duty to assist impaired visitors.

Maymont

The Maymont estate was named after Sallie May, Major James Henry Dooley's wife. Dooley transformed this 100 acre farm into a world of precious treasures and exotic gardens. The 1893 mansion possesses turrets and pink granite columns. Inside the mansion, the visitor will find stained glass transoms, gold leaf mantels, silk wall coverings and intricately carved trims. The ceilings are decorated with frescoes, the walls with stencil patterns, and the floors with complex parquet designs. The rooms are filled with priceless treasures. Two hundred species of rare and exotic trees from six continents still thrive at Maymont. Today many types of animals live on the estate. The American Bison is protected from extinction at Maymont.

30 minute tour of the Mansion
 Open September - May
 Tuesday - Sunday, 12:00-5:00
 June - August
 Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
 Maymont
 1700 Hampton Street
 Richmond, VA 23220

Or contact: The Public Relations Coordinator
 (804) 358-7166

By request of disabled visitors, horticultural therapy classes are held in an handicapped accessible area on the site. There is an elevator in one of the buildings on the site other than the historic mansion. The site plans to build a handicapped accessible visitor center.

Mayo House Memorial

The Mayo House Memorial was built in 1835 for Samuel Taylor. In 1883 Peter H. Mayo bought the Greek Revival style house. Mayo had fine cabinet woods fashioned into doors, window cases, stairs, mantels, and parquet floors. This three-story building has been used as offices for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia since 1923.

Open year round
 Daily, 9:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
 Mayo House Memorial
 110 West Franklin Street
 Richmond, VA 23220

Old Stone House/ Edgar Allen Poe Museum

The Old Stone House was built, of rough fieldstone, soon after 1736/1737. It is the oldest building still standing within the original boundaries of Richmond. The Old Stone House was already a landmark by the time Edgar Allen Poe lived there. Today it is furnished in simple mid-18th century style. The Poe Museum, which occupies five buildings with the Old Stone House being the central building, presents the life and career of Edgar Allen Poe, documenting his legend with pictures, relics and verse. The Elizabeth Arnold Poe (Edgar's mother) Memorial Building houses the few worldly possessions Poe left at his death: a trunk, his wife's mirror and trinket box, a

walking stick and a pair of boot hooks. Also in this building is a staircase from the 14th Street Allen home and furnishings from their mansion, Moldavia. The Raven Room presents sombre illustrations of Poe's "The Raven", done by James Carling.

45 to 50 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday and Monday, 1:30-4:00

Closed Christmas Day

Admission fee

Group rates by request

For more information, write to:

Edgar Allen Poe Museum

1914-1916 E. Main Street

Richmond, VA 23223

Or call: (804) 648-5523

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site. Most disabled visitors can enjoy the garden behind the Old Stone House.

St. John's Church

St. John's Church was built in 1741 by Richard Randolph on land given to Henrico Parish by William Byrd II. The church is one of the oldest wooden buildings standing in Virginia, and the oldest church in Richmond. The transept of the present church is the original St. John's Church. Many of the original pews and the original pulpit are still in the church. St. John's Church is the site of the Second Virginia Convention (1775), where Patrick Henry gave his "Give me liberty ... or give me death" oration. The site puts on a re-enactment of this convention every Sunday between May and the first Sunday in September. The Parish House houses historic documents and photos. The Chapel Gift Shop is located in the old Victorian Gothic Keeper's House, which is on the grounds of the church. Today St. John's is an active Episcopal Parish with 275 communicants.

20 to 30 minute tour

Open year round

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-3:30

Sunday, 1:30-3:30

Closed New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve
Donations are requested

For more information, write to:
 St. John's Church
 2401 E. Broad Street
 Richmond, VA 23223

Or call (804) 648-5015 or 649-7938

Disabled visitors should make advanced arrangements before their visit to the church. A staff member is available to resolve any handicapped accessibility problems.

Scott-Clarke House

The Scott-Clarke House was built in 1841. It is an example of Greek Revival architecture. The house has triple windows on the first floor like those used in neoclassical houses. The brick on the Scott-Clarke House is painted, not stuccoed as was often the case with major houses in Richmond. The house has been occupied by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce since 1986.

Open year round
 Monday - Friday, 9:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
 Scott-Clarke House
 9 South 5th Street
 Richmond, VA 23222

Or call: (804) 644-1607

There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

The Virginia House

The Virginia House is a reconstructed English manor house. Its original materials, which came from Warwick, England, date back to 1125. The house's interior is furnished with antiques and objects d'art from all over the world and from many time periods. The house is surrounded by small terraced gardens, pools and baths. There is a yearly display of thousands of tulips and other varieties of flowers and herbs at the site. The house is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society.

45 minute tour

Open by appointment only; two days advanced notice is requested
Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
Sunday, 1:00-4:00

For more information, write to:
The Virginia House
4301 Sulgrave Road
Richmond, VA 23221

Or contact: The Manager
(804) 353-4251

Virginia State Capitol

The Virginia State Capitol, located on Capitol Square, was built by Samuel Dobie in 1788. It was the first neoclassical building in North America. Thomas Jefferson designed the Capitol to resemble the Maison Carree, a Roman temple in France. The John Antoine Houdon statue of George Washington, commissioned by Thomas Jefferson, stands in the Capitol Rotunda. The Old Bell Tower in Capitol Square houses a visitor center.

15 minute tour
Open year round
Daily, 8:00-6:00

For more information, write to:
Virginia State Capitol
9th and Capitol Streets
Richmond, VA 23219

Or call: (804) 786-2121

There is someone on staff responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Wickham-Valentine House

The Wickham-Valentine House was built in 1812. This neoclassical style house was built by Richmond's then wealthiest man, John Wickham. The house's architect was Alexander Parris. Mann Valentine bought the house in 1882. Today the house is used as a museum that depicts the life and history of Richmond, through an exhibit and film on Richmond. The museum houses a huge costume collection.

30 minute tour

Open year round

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Wickhan-Valentine House

1015 E. Clay House

Richmond, VA 23219

Or call: (804) 649-0711

Special tours are offered to disabled visitors. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

Wilton

Wilton is a Georgian style house, built in 1753 by William Randolph III. It served as Lafayette's headquarters in May 1781. Wilton was originally built on a 2,000 acre plantation east of Richmond. In 1933 it was bought by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It was dismantled, moved and reconstructed on its current site. Wilton has a symmetrical facade and four tall chimneys. It is the only completely panelled period house in Virginia. Wilton houses a collection of museum-quality Chippendale and Queen Anne style furnishings. The Garden Club of Virginia has created a terraced lawn and complimentary plantings to simulate the original setting of the house.

45 minute tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:30

Sunday, 2:00-4:30

Open Sundays in July and August by appointment only

Closed national holidays

Admission fee

Group rates and tours by prior arrangement

For more information, write to:

Wilton

South Wilton Road

P. O. Box 8225

Richmond, VA 23226

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit. A new dependency, which will be handicapped accessible, is under construction.

ROANOKE**Buena Vista**

Buena Vista was built in 1859 for George Plater Tayloe, on property purchased in 1833 from his father-in-law, William Langhorne. Tayloe became one of the founders of Hollins College. He was a member of the Virginia General Assembly, and a delegate to the Secession Convention in 1861. Buena Vista is a provincial Greek Revival style mansion. Its plain, gleaming white architectural elements are contrasted against its red brick walls. Buena Vista remained in the Tayloe family until 1937, at which time it was sold to the city of Roanoke. Today the mansion is a Roanoke recreation center.

30 minute tour
Open year round

For more information, write to:
Buena Vista
Penmar Avenue and 9th Streets
Roanoke, VA 24013

Or call: (703) 981-2578

Disabled individuals need to make advanced arrangements before visiting Buena Vista.

Fire Station No. 1

This Greek Revival style fire station was built in 1907/1908. Its facade, with its fanciful cupola, is reminiscent of English town halls of the early 18th century. The station was designed by H. H. Huggins, a local architect. The first floor ceiling is covered with elaborate pressed-metal, which is painted silver. The second story has maple floors and pine trim. Fire Station No. 1 is still an active fire station. It is located at 12 East Church Avenue.

Open year round

For more information, write to:
Roanoke City Fire Department
124 W. Kirk Avenue
Roanoke, VA 24011

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the station.

RUSSELL COUNTY

The Old Russell County Courthouse and Log House (Lebanon)

The Old Russell County Courthouse was built in 1786. It is the oldest courthouse standing east of the Alleghany Mountains. This simple stone structure served as a courthouse until 1818.

The Courthouse is open year round
Daily, 9:00-7:00

The Log House is open year round
Thursday - Sunday, 11:00-5:00

For more information, write to:
The Old Russell County Courthouse and Log House
c/o Russell County Board of Supervisors
Castlewood, VA 24224

Or call: (703) 794-7030 or 794-7805

Special tours are available for disabled visitors. Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit to the site. There are handicapped accessible rest room facilities available on the site. The site has plans of adding ramps and smooth, firm walkways.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

New Market Battlefield(New Market)

The Bushong House is located on the eastern edge of the New Market Battlefield. It was built about 1825. The house belonged to Jacob and Sarah Strickler Bushong at the time of the Battle of New Market. Both armies used the house as a hospital. Today three rooms in the house are open to the public, and a collection of period farm furnishings are on display. Many of the dependencies have been restored. Also on the site is the Hall of Valor, which is a living memorial to VMI cadets who fought in the battle of New Market.

1 to 1 1/2 hour tour of the entire site

The Bushong House is open June 15 - Labor Day
Daily, 10:00-4:30

The Hall of Valor is open year round
Daily, 9:00-5:00

Closed Christmas Day

Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 New Market Battlefield Park
 P. O. Box 1864
 New Market, VA 22844

Or contact: The Curator
 (703) 740-3102

Special tours are offered to disabled visitors. Touch tours are available to the blind. Advanced arrangements need to be made for group tours of disabled visitors. The site plans to build additional handicapped accessible rest rooms.

STAFFORD COUNTY

Belmont, The Gari Melchers Memorial Gallery (Falmouth)

Belmont was built in 1790. Gari Melchers, an artist, an academician of the National Academy of Design and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, bought the estate in 1916. Today Belmont's spacious rooms are furnished with a rich selection of antiques, many of which were collected by Mr. and Mrs. Melchers. The walls are decorated with pictures by Melchers and other masters. The galleries in the Stone Studio have more than 50 of the artist's works. Melchers was one of the most decorated American artists at the turn-of-the century, and many of his metals are prominently displayed here. Belmont was deeded to the state of Virginia by the artist's widow .

1 hour tour

Open April - September

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

October - March

Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Sunday, 1:00-4:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Admission fee

Group rates available

For more information, write to:

Belmont, The Gari Melchers Memorial Gallery
 224 Washington Street
 Falmouth, VA 22405

Or call: (703) 373-3634

Handicapped individuals need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site.

STAUNTON

Woodrow Wilson Birthplace

The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace site is made up of three buildings. The three-story Greek Revival style mansion was built by the Presbyterians in 1846 as a manse for their ministers. The former President Woodrow Wilson was born in this house. The mansion has been restored to its appearance at the time when Reverend Joseph Ruggles Wilson and his family lived there. Its 12 rooms contain many items which belonged to the Wilsons. The adjacent 1910 Colonial Revival house contains the visitor center, with its small exhibit room and film room. This building is mainly used as an administration center. Also on the site is an 1895 Victorian Mansion. Part of its main floor currently houses educational programs. In a period Carriage House is President Wilson's restored Pierce-Arrow limousine from his White House fleet.

30 to 40 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and Sundays in January and February

Admission fee

Special rates for groups and senior citizens

For more information, write to:

Woodrow Wilson Birthplace
24 North Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401

Or call: (703) 885-0897

There is a staff member in charge of resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours are available to the disabled upon request. The main floor of the Victorian mansion is wheelchair accessible. In 1989 this building will be totally rehabilitated as a visitor center and exhibit hall. It will be totally handicapped accessible.

SUFFOLKRiddick House

The Riddick House, also known as "Riddick's Folly", is a Greek Revival town house. It was built for Mills Riddick, his wife and 12 children in 1837. During the Civil War, the house served as the headquarters of Union General John J. Pick. Today this 20-room house serves as a museum and cultural center. The house reopened March 6, 1988, after being closed 3 years for major restoration and renovation. The house is located at 510 Main Street.

1 hour tour

Open year round

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Admission fee for tours

A fee is also charged to hold meetings or parties here

For more information, write to:

Riddick House

P.O. Box 1722

Suffolk, VA 23434

Or contact: The Director

(804) 934-1390

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit to the site. The site plans to add a chair lift.

SURRY COUNTYBacon's Castle (Surry)

Bacon's Castle was built in 1665 by Arthur Allen. It is the oldest documented brick house in English North America, and is the earliest Virginia house to be constructed in a cruciform design (the main body of the house is joined by a porch tower on the front and a stair tower in the rear). Bacon's Castle is America's only surviving High-Jacobean style structure. It possesses architectural features that have become all but extinct. The house's curvilinear or Flemish gables are accented by offset triple chimney stacks. Its Greek Revival wing was added in the 1840s. Bacon's Castle is furnished with English and Southern antiques of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The house got its name from Nathaniel Bacon who, in 1676, led a rebellion against the Virginia governor. It was here he

established and fortified his outpost during his rebellion, and ruled the county of Surry for several months.

45 minute tour

Open April - December

Tuesday - Friday, Sunday, 12:00-4:00

Saturday, 10:00-4:00

Closed Mondays

Admission fee

Special group tours by appointment

For more information, write to:

Bacon's Castle

P. O. Box 158

Surry, VA 23883

Or call: (804) 866-8483

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. The staff offers assistance in helping people into the house.

Chippokes Plantation State Park (Surry)

The Greek Revival mansion on the Chippokes Plantation site was built in 1854 for Albert C. Jones. Today the mansion is part of the Chippokes Plantation State Park. The modern visitors center on the site has displays and audiovisual programs which explain the rich local history of the area's agriculture and its development from 1619 to the present. The interpretive programs at the park range from nature walks dealing with the area's diverse habitats to historic interpretation of various plantation buildings.

1 hour tour

Mansion is open Memorial Day - Labor Day

Wednesday - Sunday, 12:30-4:00

Park is open daily during daylight hours

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Chippokes Plantation State Park

Rt. 1, Box 213

Surry, VA 23883

Or contact: The Site Superintendent
(804) 294-3625

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. If a disabled visitor will be needing

assistance touring the site, advanced arrangements should be made. A staff member is available for assistance. The back entrance of the mansion is ramped, with a bell pull at the end of the ramp for assistance with the door. The elevator in the Chippokes mansion is not wheelchair accessible. There is a hard-surfaced trail on the site designed for the disabled.

Smith's Fort Plantation (Surry)

Smith's Fort Plantation is located directly across from Jamestown on Gray's Creek. The land was given to John Rolfe by Powhatan. The brick, two-story manor house was built in 1754, probably by Jacob Faulcon, a wealthy merchant and Surry County court clerk. The house is furnished with early-English and American furniture and domestic accessories of the late 16th-century to the early 18th century. The property takes its name from the earthwork constructed under the orders of Captain John Smith in 1609. The remains of this earthwork is in the woods behind the house.

30 minute tour

Open third weekend in April to September 30

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, 1:00-5:00

Closed on Mondays

For more information, write to:

Smith's Fort Plantation

Box 88

Surry, VA 23883

Or call: (804) 294-3872

SMYTH COUNTY

Smyth County Historical Museum (Marion)

The Smyth County Historical Museum is housed in the oldest school building in Marion and Smyth Counties. It was built in 1838 as a two room school house. A young couple bought the school house in 1884 and made it a residence. They built three additional rooms, added a porch and "modernized" the structure. Today the old school house is a museum containing Smyth County artifacts. The museum was founded by Mrs. Clara Hill Carner, a retired history teacher.

1 hour tour

Open Memorial Day - Labor Day

Sundays, 2:00-5:00

Also open by appointment or invitation

For more information, write to:

Smyth County Historical Museum
P. O. Box 788
Marion, VA 24354

Or contact: The Curator

(703) 783-2745

The lower floor of the school house is handicapped accessible at the ground level. A temporary ramp is planned for the upper back entrance.

VIRGINIA BEACH

Francis Land House

The Francis Land House was built in 1732 by Captain Francis Thoroughgood Land III. The Dutch gambrel roof brick structure served as the home of four generations of Francis Lands, one of the first families to settle in Princess Anne County. The house was bought by Colin Studs in 1954. He heavily remodeled the dwelling, built an addition and renamed it "Rose Hall - The Shop for Ladies and their Daughters". When the house was scheduled for razing to make way for a department store, the City of Virginia Beach stepped in and rezoned the area into an Historical and Cultural District. The city purchased the house and the site's remaining 35 acres in 1975.

1 hour tour

Open year round

Wednesday - Saturday, 9:00-5:00

Sunday, 12:00-5:00

Closed Monday and Tuesday, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Francis Land House
3131 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Or contact: The Site Administrator

(804) 340-1732

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit to the house. Special tours are offered to disabled visitors.

Old Donation Episcopal Church

The first church built at the present site was in 1694. The present Old Donation Church was built in 1736. The church got its name from a gift of adjoining land, known as Donation Farm, given by Reverend Robert Dickson in 1776. In 1842 the church was abandoned for general worship. A woods fire in 1882 destroyed its interior. In 1912, through the efforts of Reverend Richard Alfriend and Judge B. D. White, restoration began. The basin of the church's font was taken from the waters of the Lynnhaven River at Church Pointe; it was from the original parish church at Church Pointe (built prior to 1640). The most unusual feature of the church is the four upper windows which gave light for the four hanging pews, built by wealthy parishioners for their use.

30 minute tour

Open Sundays, 8:00-12:30 or by appointment

For more information, write to:
 Old Donation Episcopal Church
 4449 N. Witch Duck Road
 Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Or call: (804) 497-0563

Renovation plans being considered for the church should increase the building's handicapped accessibility.

WASHINGTON COUNTYBarter Theatre (Abingdon)

The Barter Theatre is the state theatre of Virginia. It was the first state theatre in the nation. The theatre was founded in the 1930s by Robert Porterfield. It is an active theatre today, and is America's longest running professional theatre. The theatre has had a fine list of distinguished alumni. The building housing the Barter Theatre was built in 1830. The Barter Playhouse across the street from the theatre was built in 1829. The furnishings in the Barter Theatre are from the Old Empire Theatre in New York City. The playhouse is a rustic, intimate theatre with flexible stage and lighting. It is here that new plays are performed.

Open April - October for performances
 Special Student matinees
 Group discounts for 20 or more
 Patron discount coupons are available

For more information, write to:
 Barter Theatre
 P.O. Box 867
 Abingdon, VA 24210

Or call: (703) 628-3991

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the theatre. The theatre management is in the process of adding handicapped accessible rest rooms to the theatre building.

White's Mill (Abingdon)

White's Mill was built in 1790. It was operated by a wooden over-shot water wheel. Today the mill is still operating, grinding corn into cornmeal for sale on the site. The wooden water wheel has been replaced by a 20 foot diameter metal Fitz wheel. The original beams are still in the mill.

30 minute self-guided tour

Open year round

Winter, 9:00-4:00

Summer, 9:00-6:00

For more information, write to:
 White's Mill
 Rt. 8, Box 293
 Abingdon, VA 24210

Or call: (703) 628-5383

WAYNESBORO

Swannanoa

Swannanoa was built in 1912 by Major James H. Dooley, a Richmond railroad magnate. It took 300 master artisans 8 years to build the Italian Renaissance palace. The mansion is constructed of Georgian marble on the outside and Italian Carrara and Sierra marble on the inside. The mansion possesses rare wood carvings, mural paintings, a Tiffany window, and a marble staircase. The baronial hall, gold tapestried ballroom, library and oak paneled dining room are filled with works of art by Walter and Lao Russell. Swannanoa's gardens are terraced three tiers high with marble steps and terrace walls and a

marble columned rose covered pergola. In the center of the garden is the statue of "The Christ of the Blue Ridge". Swannanoa is the headquarters of the University of Science and Philosophy, formally known as the Walter Russell Foundation.

45 minute to 1 hour tour
 Open November - April
 Daily, 9:00-5:00
 May - October
 Daily, 8:00-6:00
 Admission fee

For more information, write to:
 Swannanoa
 Rt. 250, P. O. Box 520
 Waynesboro, VA 22980

Or call: (703) 942-5161

The tour is accessible to all. The staff is on hand for assistance. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Popes Creek Plantation) (Washington's Birthplace)

This is the site where George Washington was born. The house he was born in was built between 1722 and 1726. It burned in 1779. Today oyster shells outline where the house was. It was a U-shaped house with at least nine rooms. The memorial house was built in 1930. It represents a typical home of an upper class family in the 18th century. In this house there is a small tea table which is believed to have been in the original house. Most of the other furnishings are more than 200 years old. The kitchen on the site has been restored. There have been 32 burials in the sites burying ground; two of the original gravestones remain. In George Washington's time the farm was called Popes Creek Plantation; today it is called Wakefield.

20 to 30 minute tour of the Memorial House
 30 minute tour of the Visitors Center
 Open year round
 Daily, 9:00-5:00
 Closed New Year's Day and Christmas Day.

For more information, write to:

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
RR. 1, Box 717
Washington's Birthplace, VA 22443

Or call: (804) 224-1732

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours are offered to people with disabilities. Advanced arrangements are needed only if visiting in a group. The grounds and farm are accessible to wheelchair users; the graveyard is accessible by car. A site member can drive a disabled person around the site via the site's golf cart.

Stratford Hall Plantation (Stratford)

Thomas Lee built Stratford Hall's manor house in the late 1720s from brick made on the site and timbers cut from virgin forest. Craftsmen from England and local labor constructed the H-shaped manor house, four dependencies, coach house and stable. The Great Hall in the center of the house is 29 feet square with a tray ceiling (17 feet high) and elaborately carved decoration. Four generations of Lees, including Robert E. Lee, were born in the upstairs bedroom. The plantation mill has been rebuilt on its original foundation. The plantation is still managed as a farm today, making it one of the oldest continuing agricultural operations in the country.

45 minute tour

20 minute slide show

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-4:30

Closed Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

Stratford Hall Plantation
Rt. 214
Stratford, VA 22558

Or contact: The Assistant Executive Director
(804) 493-8038

The first floor of the manor house is accessible to everyone.

WILLIAMSBURGColonial Williamsburg

Colonial Williamsburg is the restored capital of 18th-century Virginia. The site offers a broad range of attractions including: original and reconstructed homes, shops and buildings; a craft program that preserves and demonstrates over thirty 18th-century trades; acres of pleasant tree-shaded gardens and greens; and a program of living historical interpretation that brings the Colonial past to life. The site consists of 88 original structures and hundreds of reconstructed buildings within 173 acres of restored area. The restoration of this glorious Colonial city began in 1926, when John D. Rockefeller, Jr. decided to return Williamsburg to the days of its greatest glory.

Bassett Hall was built between 1753 and 1766 by Colonel Philip Johnson. The mansion was purchased by Burwell Bassett, in 1800. In the 1920s Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. bought Bassett Hall. A fire in 1930 caused heavy damage to the mansion. Restoration began in 1931. It was at this time major alterations were made. The grounds of Bassett Hall were laid out during the 1930s under the direction of Authur A. Shurcliff, the first landscape architect associated with Colonial Williamsburg. Today Bassett Hall reflects the Rockefeller's personal interest, and how they lived in the mid-1930s. The house's furnishings are a combination of inherited possessions and Chinese, English and American antiques. The house also displays Mrs. Rockefeller's folk art. (40 minute tour)

The Brush-Everard House was built in 1717 by John Brush. The house was later owned by Thomas Everard (mayor, auditor of Virginia and Clerk of the General Assembly). Today the house features period furnishings and a carved staircase. A brick kitchen and wooden smokehouse are also on the site.

Bruton Parish Church was built in 1715. It was named for an English Church in Somerset. Bruton Parish became the Court Church of Colonial Williamsburg. The high box pews, designed to protect parishioners from the winter cold in the unheated church, are memorials to distinguished patriots and statesmen who worshipped here. The parish possesses three sets of Colonial communion silver, a pre-Revolutionary prayer book, old parish registers, a bronze lectern given in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt and a bible given by King Edward VII. A Samuel Green organ of 1785 has been incorporated into the modern Vernon M. Geddy memorial pipe organ. Bruton Parish is one of the main original historic buildings on the Colonial Williamsburg site. Today Bruton Parish is an active Episcopal Church. (15 minute tour)

The Capitol is one of Colonial America's most important buildings. Principles of self-government, individual liberty and responsible

leadership were developed here by Virginia's patriots.

Carter's Grove Plantation is the site of Wolstenholme Towne, a fortified 17th-century settlement. The plantation was founded by Robert "King" Carter, probably the colony's wealthiest planter. The Georgian style manor house was built by Carter Barwell, the grandson of Robert "King" Carter in 1750. David Minitree, a Williamsburg brick mason, constructed the manor house. Richard Baylis, created all the house's beautiful woodwork.

The Courthouse of 1770 is one of Colonial Williamsburg's original buildings. It now houses exhibits.

The Dora Armistead House was built about 1890 by C. P. Armistead. This late-Victorian style house is believed to have been built on the site of an 18th-century tavern. The house was leased to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) in March of 1987 by heirs of the Armistead family who inherited the property after the death of Dora Travis Armistead. Today the house serves as an exhibit area for the APVA and as a display of late 19th-century decorative arts. The house contains furnishing, decorative objects and personal items that are mostly original Armistead family possessions. (30 minute tour)

The George Wythe House was built in about 1750 as a town house for Richard Taliaferro. George Wythe was his son-in-law. Wythe was America's first law professor; he was Thomas Jefferson's teacher. The house served as George Washington's headquarters before the siege of Yorktown.

The Governor's Palace was the official residence of seven royal governors. The palace was burned a few months before the surrender at Yorktown. The new Governor's Palace was reconstructed on the foundations and basement walls of the original structure. The palace also served as the home of the first two governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia: Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson.

The James Geddy House was built about 1750. The house's furnishings are largely American Colonial rather than English. Geddy worked as a gunsmith, blacksmith and jeweler. His foundry is behind the house.

The Magazine was the arsenal of the Virginia colony. Authentic firearms are in exhibit in the Magazine today.

The Peyton Randolph House is one of the site's original houses. The three-bay western section of the house, with an unusual square floor plan, was built about 1716 for William Robertson, Clerk of the Council (1701-1739). The one and a half story dependency on the east side of the house was built around 1724, and was later connected to the older section by a two-story, four-bay section. The connection was probably

built by Peyton Randolph's father. The Randolph section of the house is distinguished by its marble chimney piece and panelled woodwork. Peyton Randolph was Speaker of the House of Burgesses and the first president of the Continental Congress.

The Public Gaol is where debtors, criminals and pirates were imprisoned while awaiting trial.

Public Hospital was the first public institution in British North America devoted exclusively to the treatment of mental illness.

Raleigh's Tavern is one of the best known Colonial taverns, where patriots, planters and other leaders were among its many guests.

Wetherburn's Tavern is an original Colonial Williamsburg tavern. It has been returned to its pre-Revolutionary appearance.

Craft Shops on the site include: Pasteur and Galt Apothecary, Anderson Blacksmith Shop, Bootmaker, Cabinetmaker, Cooper, Golden Ball Silversmith, Gunsmith, Printer-Bookbinder, Harness and Saddlemaker, Milliner, Musical Instrument Maker, Music Teacher, Wheelwright, Wigmaker, and Windmill.

Most of the buildings on the site that are open to the public are open year round, daily, 9:00-5:00

Bassett Hall is open year round
Friday - Monday, 10:00-5:00
Closed January - mid March

Bruton Parish Church is open year round
Daily, 10:00-5:00
Services on Sunday

Carter's Grove Plantation is open March - November
Daily, 9:00-5:00
Also open 2 weeks at Christmas

Dora Armistead House is open
January - March
Wednesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
Sunday, 1:00-4:00
April, May, September - December
Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
Sunday, 1:00-4:00
June - August
Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
Sunday, 1:00-4:00
Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Most of the buildings are on a general ticket pass. Tickets for a few of the buildings, such as the Governor's Palace, can be purchased separately.

For more information about any of the buildings on the site, write to:
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
P. O. Box C
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Or call: 1-800-HISTORY or (804) 220-7205

Can also call for information about:

Bassett Hall: (804) 229-1000 or 229-3525
Bruton Parish Church: (804) 229-2891
Dora Armistead House: (804) 229-0412

Colonial Williamsburg's Visitor Center is fully accessible to the disabled. The site provides handicapped accessible rest rooms at many places around the site. Special tours can be arranged for visually disabled visitors with two weeks advanced notice through the Handicap Services office. The historic site offers a "hands-on" tour in the craft shops. Some buildings offer an audiovisual presentation which interprets its second floor. Advanced notice is required. Colonial Williamsburg has put together a "Wheelchair Guide", which has tips for wheelchair users. The map in the "Visitor's Guide" has handicapped accessible areas marked with the international accessibility symbol. Colonial Williamsburg has also put together "A Guide for the Handicapped", which discusses the site's accessible features for the blind visitor, the deaf and hearing impaired visitor and the visitor with limited mobility. This brochure also has an accessibility summary for places to visit, eat, shop and stay.

At Bassett Hall there is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Disabled visitors are asked to make advanced arrangements before their visit, in order that the portable ramp is up when they get to the site. Touring the nature trails is not recommended for visitors in wheelchairs. The site plans to make slides of second floor rooms.

The gardens at the Brush-Everard House are handicapped accessible.

At Bruton Parish Church, disabled visitors are asked to make advanced arrangements before visiting. The church plans to make alterations that will make it more accessible to the disabled visitor.

There is a portable ramp available at the Capitol. Twenty-four hours notice is needed.

The Reception Center at Carter's Grove Plantation is fully handicapped accessible. Advanced arrangements are requested. An audiovisual presentation of the second floor is available upon request.

There is an interpretation of the second floor of the Dora Armistead House for visitors who cannot physically tour the house.

The gardens at the George Wythe House are handicapped accessible. Most of the outbuildings can be viewed from the outside. There is some outdoor interpretation during the summer.

With advanced notice at the Governor's Palace, a disabled visitor can make an appointment for assistance into the palace. The ramps that are available, are track ramps which accommodate wheelchairs, but not three-wheeled mobility aids.

At the James Geddy House, a portable ramp is available with 24 hours notice. The yard and grounds are handicapped accessible.

The grounds and the lower level of the Magazine are handicapped accessible.

At the Peyton Randolph House, a temporary ramp is available with 24 hours notice.

The Public Hospital/Dewitt Wallace Decorative Arts Gallery is fully handicapped accessible. The handicapped accessible entrance is marked at the rear of the west side of the building.

There is a portable ramp available at Raleigh Tavern. Twenty-four hours notice is requested.

The grounds and gardens of Wetherburn's Tavern are handicapped accessible. Most of the outbuildings can be viewed from the outside.

Most of the 20 exhibit gardens in the historic area are accessible to the disabled visitor.

WINCHESTER

Abram's Delight

Abraham Hollingsworth, a Quaker, built a log cabin and grist mill beside the spring on this site. His son, Issac, built the present house in 1754 of native limestone. This house, with walls two and a half feet thick, is the oldest house in Winchester. In 1800 a wing was added to this stone house. In 1830 the house was "modernized" in

the Federal style. The restored log cabin on the west lawn was not part of the original Hollingsworth homestead. Abram's Delight is located at 1340 Pleasant Valley Road.

45 minute tour
Open April 1 - October 31
Daily, 9:00-5:00
Admission fee

For more information, write to:
Abram's Delight
c/o Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
P. O. Box 97
Winchester, VA 22601

Or contact: The Director of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
(703) 662-6550 or 662-0519

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their visit to the site.

George Washington's Office Museum (Adam Kurtz House)

The center room of this small log building is alleged to have served as George Washington's military office from September 1755 to December 1756, when he served as a commissioned officer of the Virginia Militia. In December of 1756, he moved his office from the crude cabin to Fort Loudoun. The existing building is made of logs and stones. Records show that in 1764 Thomas Rutherford occupied the site. Adam Kurtz, one of Daniel Morgan's riflemen, bought the property from Rutherford in 1778. George Washington's Office Museum is located at 32 W. Cork Street.

30 minute tour
Open April 1 - October 31
Daily, 9:00-5:00
Admission fee

For information, write to:
George Washington's Office Museum
c/o Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
Box 97
Winchester, VA 22601

Or contact: The Director of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
(703) 662-6550 or 662-4412

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before visiting the site.

Old Stone Presbyterian Church

The Old Stone Presbyterian Church was erected in 1788 as a branch of the Opequon Church. This small stone church has walls that are two feet thick. The Synod of Virginia met here in 1790, and the Winchester Presbytery was organized here in 1794. A congregation was organized here in 1800 with 40 members. General Daniel Morgan of Revolutionary War fame was a member and was buried in the adjoining cemetery. The Presbyterians used the church until 1834. It was used by the Baptists from 1834 to 1854, and by the Old School Baptist Church for Color from 1858 to 1886. Federal troops used it as a stable during the Civil War, at which time it was damaged by shell fire. The church was used as a public school for negro children between 1875 and 1929 and by the National Guard Army between 1929 and 1940. The church was restored between 1941 and 1950 under the leadership of Clifford D. Grim, a deacon in the Loudoun Street Church.

10 minute tour

Open year round

Daily, 9:00-5:00

For more information, write to:

Old Stone Presbyterian Church

306 E. Piccadilly Street

Winchester, VA 22601

Or call: (703) 662-3824.

A disabled visitor could possibly enter the church through the side door. There is one short step at this entrance. There would be no problem with handicapped accessibility once inside the building.

Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters

This Hudson River Gothic Revival style house, built in 1854, was the home of Lieutenant Colonel Lewis T. Moore. During the Civil War, Stonewall Jackson used Moore's house as his headquarters. Today Jackson's office is much as it was during his stay. The house contains a collection of artifacts of Jackson, Turner Ashby, Jed Hotchkiss and other Confederates. Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters is located at 415 North Braddock Street.

45 minute tour

Open April 1 - October 31

Daily, 9:00-5:00

Admission fee

For more information, write to:

Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters
c/o Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
P. O. Box 97
Winchester, VA 22601

Or contact: The Director of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical
Society
(703) 662-6550 or 667-3242

Disabled visitors need to make advanced arrangements before their
visit.

WYTHE COUNTY

The Haller-Gibboney Rock House (Wytheville)

The Haller-Gibboney Rock House was built in 1823 of quarried limestone. This three-story house was the home of Dr. John Haller, Wytheville's first physician. During the Civil War, the house served as a hospital for Confederate soldiers. It was during this time the house was riddled by bullets during a Union raid. The house's furnishings are original Haller pieces and momentos. Today the Haller-Gibboney Rock House is the headquarters for the Wythe County Historical Society.

Open May - October
Saturday & Sunday, afternoons
Group tours by appointment

For more information, write to:
The Haller-Gibboney Rock House
Monroe and Tazewell Streets
P. O. Box 721
Wytheville, VA 24382

Or call: (703) 228-3841

Shot Tower Historical Park (Poplar Camp)

The Shot Tower was built in 1807 by Thomas Jackson, who also operated it. The Shot Tower resembles a fortress in construction. Its two and a half feet thick walls are built of stone, quarried from a limestone deposit about one mile away. At the base, the tower measures 20 feet square; it stands 70 feet high. A shaft was sunk inside the tower, from the bottom floor to a depth of 75 feet below the floor. The Shot

Tower was used to make lead shot until the early 1800s.

20 minute tour

Open April 30 - May 27

September 6 - October 30

Weekends, 9:00-5:00

Memorial Day - Labor Day

Daily, 10:00-6:00

For more information, write to:
 Shot Tower Historical Park
 c/o Claytor Lake State Park
 Rt. 1, Box 267
 Dublin, VA 24084

Or contact: The Information Officer
 (804) 786-5045

The site is handicapped accessible except for the upper part of the tower.

YORK COUNTY

Grace Church (Yorktown)

Grace Church was built about 1697 of marl slabs taken from the York River shore. It stands on a bluff overlooking the water. In Colonial times the church was known as "York-Hampton, York and Yorktown Church". The unconventionality and simplicity of the church make it appealing to architects and historians today. The church's northern wing was added during colonial times. The church burned in 1814. It lay in ruins until it was reconstructed in 1848, when only the original portion of the church was rebuilt within the standing walls. It was at this time the church was rededicated as "Grace Church". During the American Revolution, Lord Cornwallis used the church as a powder magazine, causing an estimated damage of 150 British pounds. During the Civil War, the belfry was used as a lookout tower; the building proper was used as a hospital. The bell in the steeple, which was cast in 1725, was carried off during the Civil War. Its fragments were later recovered in Philadelphia. The bell was recast in its original form out of the same metal, and restored to duty in 1889. The church's old communion silver, which was presented to Hampton Parish in 1649, is one of the oldest services in constant use in an American church. General Thomas Nelson, Jr. is buried in the Church's cemetery, which was in use as early as 1701. Today Grace Church is an active Episcopal Church.

Open year round
Daily, 9:00-3:30

For more information, write to:
Grace Church
Route 1003 and Main Street
Yorktown, VA 23690

The Moore House (Yorktown)

The Moore House was built in the early 18th century. It was the home of Augustine Moore. It was here, in 1781, that peace commissioners drafted and ratified the terms by which Cornwallis' British army was surrendered to Washington's allied French and American forces. The Moore House is part of the Yorktown Battlefield Site.

30 minute tour
Open year round
Daily, 8:30-5:00
Closed Christmas Day

For more information, write to:
The Moore House
c/o Colonial National Historical Park
P. O. Box 210
Yorktown, VA 23690

Or contact: The Public Affairs Officer
(804) 898-3400

With reservations, special tours are offered for disabled visitors. There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. There are plans to videotape the tour of the house. The site's management is considering adding a portable ramp.

The Nelson House (Yorktown)

The Nelson House, the home of Thomas Nelson, Jr., was built in 1711. The house was damaged by a cannonball during the American Revolution. This cannonball remains lodged high in one of the house's brick walls. The Nelson House is part of the Yorktown Battlefield.

30 minute tour
Open year round
Daily, 8:30-5:00
Closed Christmas Day

For more information, write to:

The Nelson House
c/o Colonial National Historical Park
P.O. Box 210
Yorktown, VA 23690

Or contact: The Public Affairs Officer
(804) 898-3400

There is a staff member responsible for resolving handicapped accessibility problems. Special tours are offered to the disabled visitor if reservations are made. There are plans for videotaping the tour of the building. The site management is also considering adding a stair-trac to the building.

Vita

Andrea Edwards Gray was born March 14, 1962 in Goldsboro, North Carolina. In 1980 she graduated from Goldsboro High School. During the summers of 1978-1980, Andrea was employed as an engineers assistant at Cox-Edwards Construction Company in Goldsboro. She completed a Bachelors of Science degree in Home Economics (with an emphasis in Interior Design) at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, graduating cum laude. While at Meredith, Andrea served as co-president of the Philaretian Society (1983-1984), a service oriented sorority involved with the Adult Cerebral Palsy center in Raleigh. She was also a member of the North Carolina Home Economics Association and the American Home Economics Association (1983-1984), and a member of the Delta Omicron chapter of Kappa Omicron Phi (1983-1984). During her senior year, Andrea did an internship at Duke University with the Department of Purchasing, which is in charge of the interior design needs of the university. During the summers while attending Meredith, she was employed as a salesperson at Habersham Plantation (1981) and Archie's U-Frame-It (1982-1983), both in Goldsboro. In September 1984, Andrea began a Master's of Science degree in the Department of Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Between 1984 and 1986, she was employed as a graduate assistant in the Department of Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management. In her second year

at Virginia Tech, she was a member of the Virginia Tech student chapter of ASID. In March of 1987, Andrea married Gary Cecil Gray.

Andrea Edwards Gray

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