

Priority Recommendations for Historic Preservation in Albemarle County
with
Historic Preservation Committee Accomplishments 2015-2018

1. Create a permanent Historic Preservation Committee to provide assistance and advice concerning the County's historic preservation program.

Status: The Board of Supervisors approved this recommendation for implementation in 2001. The Historic Preservation Committee held its first meeting on January 8, 2002. The Committee has been meeting regularly since that time.

2. Compile and maintain a current and comprehensive information base for Albemarle County's historic resources. This database should include, but is not limited to, the following: Identification of all historic sites by tax map and parcel number; maintenance of a map of potential prehistoric archaeological sites, and ready accessibility to all Virginia Department of Historic Resources historic survey inventory data on Albemarle County resources. This information base should be consulted so that historic resources may be fully considered in the County's development review process, and should be made easily available to interested citizens for educational and informational purposes. This information base should also be coordinated with the County's GIS system.

Status: Committee members identified the contributing or non-contributing status of each individual property to the overall significance of each of the county's eleven National Register Historic Districts. County staff have incorporated this information into the County's GIS Web. Once testing is complete, the new informational layer will be made available to the public, with a prospective release date of February 2019.

3. Institute a program whereby new owners of historic properties are notified of the significance of their property and are given instructions for obtaining additional preservation-related information concerning their historic resource.

Status: Three committee members serve on a subcommittee that identifies recently sold properties of historic value. Letters are sent to new property owners to inform them of the historic character of their houses, to encourage preservation, to inform them of potential tax credits, and to offer the HPC as an informational resource. In 2015, 36 letters were sent. In 2016, 38 were sent. In 2017, 35 were sent. In 2018, 49 were sent. Occasionally, recipients will call for advice. Staff and/or HPC members responded by sending information by email and/or by visiting the property owners and offering informal advice.

4. Establish a formal definition of the term "significant historic resource" to be used in the implementation of the County's Historic Preservation Plan.

Status: This item was completed in 2003.

5. In the event that demolition of a significant historic resource must occur, thoroughly document the resource prior to demolition. Also encourage documentation prior to major adaptive reuse or renovation whenever possible.

Status: The Historic Preservation Committee recommended revised Comprehensive Plan text regarding documentation before demolition in 2015. The revised text was adopted. In

2015, 26 applications were made for demolition permits. Thirteen of the properties were documented by the committee or staff. In 2016, 28 applications were received and 15 properties were documented by the committee or staff. In 2017, 42 applications were received and 20 properties were documented by the committee or staff. In 2018, 45 applications were received and 12 were documented by the committee or staff.

6. Promote and encourage preservation by making available information regarding state and national register designation procedures, tax incentives, historic and conservation easements, and other voluntary preservation measures.

Status: The committee currently addresses this item with the real estate letters discussed in #3, above. The item is also being addressed with the on-line manual discussed in #7, below.

7. Foster community pride, good citizenship, and stewardship of the County's historic resources through heritage education programs, beginning with the creation of educational/informational brochures on various County historic preservation issues, including state and national register listing, tax incentives, County policy, etc.

Status:

- In 2016 the Committee made available on-line, on the Committee's web [page](#), a manual for owners of historic buildings. Topics addressed in the manual include: tax credit information, National Register nomination information, steps for researching a historic property, standards and guidelines for restoration and renovation, and weblinks to sources of historic preservation, including photos and maps, and more.
- In 2018 the Committee researched the history of the Rio Mills and Cartersburg areas and mounted an analog display of the findings in the County Office Building during Preservation Week as well as added it to the digital display on the first floor of the County Office Building. The work provides some context for the Rio29 Small Area Plan, and the Committee hopes to convert the work into content for exhibits and historic markers.
- The Committee has received regular updates on the County's Community Remembrance Project and plans for historical exhibits in the County Office Building as well as historical markers throughout the County. The Committee looks forward to contributing to the exhibit and marker programs in the coming year.

8. The Historic Preservation Committee should work with other organizations to initiate and implement community events for Albemarle County that recognize our historic resources. These events should be coordinated with other statewide heritage tourism activities and National Preservation Week.

Status: In 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Historic Preservation Committee was represented at the annual meeting of the Piedmont Area Preservation Alliance by the committee's chairperson. As stated in #7, above, the exhibit on the history of Rio Mills and the Cartersburg community was displayed in the County Office Building for the month of May, inclusive of Preservation Week.

9. To help protect the Monticello viewshed, adopt a more formalized procedure that begins early in the planning process to encourage cooperation between the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation and developers of property within the viewshed.

Status: This item was addressed with updates to the Comprehensive Plan in 2015. The county's GIS Web includes a "Monticello Viewshed" map layer.

10. Be prepared to take advantage of resources, as they become available, to assist in implementation of the County's historic preservation plan.

Status: This is an ongoing item for the committee. Resources that might be identified under this item would contribute to the completion of work products under the other priorities.

11. Continue to pursue the implementation of financial incentives for historic preservation, including the establishment of a revolving loan fund and the requisite enabling legislation.

Status: The committee has not addressed this issue. Coordinating with the County's Economic Development Department might foster progress of this initiative.

12. Two years after the adoption of these recommendations, evaluate the County's progress on these preservation priorities, and evaluate the need for an historic overlay district ordinance.

Status: Status reports on these historic preservation priorities were presented to the Board of Supervisors in 2005, 2008, 2009, 2013, and 2014. The HPC has had ongoing discussions about the need for greater protection of the County's historic resources and stricter application of demolition permit requirements since that time.