



City of Virginia Beach

Historic Preservation Commission

2025-2026 Annual Report to City Council

Chair: Christi Lyons

Date: June 3, 2026

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 the Historic Preservation Commission volunteers and liaisons

- met 9 times
- held 2 additional events and activities

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed below, along with recommendations for your consideration.

Mission Statement

PURPOSE – *The purpose of the Historic Preservation Commission is to advise the City Council and the Departments of Planning and Community Development and Cultural Affairs on all issues related to the preservation of historic buildings, structures and sites located in the City of Virginia Beach.*

MISSION – *The mission of the Historic Preservation Commission shall be to preserve, protect and maintain the historic identity of Virginia Beach and the former Princess Anne County through a program of advocacy and increased public awareness and involvement.*

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

Over the past fiscal year the agency, through its appointed volunteers and its liaisons, worked on the following key matters in furtherance of its mission:

1. The HPC and Planning staff continued accomplishment of their initiative to update and bring older (pre-1990) National Register of Historic Place (NRHP) nominations up to current standards.
 - a. In FY26, the following updated nominations were approved by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources and the National Park Service (NPS):
 - i. Holland-de Witt Cottage
 - ii. Pleasant Hall
 - iii. Weblin House
 - b. These projects were partially funded through a 2024-2025 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant (\$32,072.03) awarded by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR).
 - c. The HPC provided letters of support to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for these nomination updates.
 - d. Letters from DHR announcing the approval by the NPS of the additional documentation for the updated NRHP nominations during FY26 are attached.
 - e. The HPC has now completed seven (7) of these updates for older individual NRHP nominations in Virginia Beach.
2. The HPC received a 2025-2026 CLG grant award (\$8,775) to partially fund an update of one additional older NRHP nomination.
 - a. A consultant was contracted to prepare an NRHP nomination update for the Seatack Life Saving Station/U.S. Coast Guard Station
 - b. The CLG grant schedule follows the federal fiscal year. The project will be completed in the City's FY27.
3. The HPC initiated and substantially completed a condition assessment for all of the 26 Virginia Historical Highway Markers located in Virginia Beach.
 - a. Several markers, especially those located close to the Atlantic Ocean, are exhibiting surface damage, including loss of paint on the letters
 - b. One of the markers, Cape Henry Railroads, was removed and sent to the manufacturer for refurbishment. It has been refurbished and reinstalled.
 - c. A maintenance and treatment plan will be developed based upon review and analysis of the completed condition reports.

4. The HPC hosted a Public Meeting on November 5, 2025 to update interested citizens on the City's historic preservation program.
 - a. Presentations were provided on recent historic preservation projects and activities
 - b. The meeting included a presentation from a professional dendrochronologist on the dendrochronology process in establishing construction dates for historic buildings. Part of the presentation focused on the recent dendrochronology project at Pleasant Hall that was sponsored by the HPC.
 - c. The HPC recognized the significant contributions made by Jimmie Koch in preserving the historic Cutty Sark Motel (originally the Crest Kitchenette) and the 37th Street Cottages at the oceanfront.
5. The HPC engaged Virginia Beach students through participation in its Student Leaders Committee.
 - a. City Council-appointed Student Members co-chaired the committee, including planning and running meetings.
 - b. On February 10, 2026, Committee members attended a Virginia General Assembly session to advocate for historic preservation and learn about the legislative process. They also attended Preservation Virginia's Legislative Reception the same day and networked with governmental officials and community activists involved in local preservation.
 - c. Several meetings were held at historic sites to introduce committee members to local historic resources and the work needed to preserve them. Tours of these sites included
 - i. Lynnhaven House, Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum, Francis Land House, and deWitt Cottage (Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum).
 - d. Members of the Student Leaders Committee contributed 174:15 volunteer hours to the Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Virginia Beach in FY26.
6. The HPC engaged citizens in supporting historic preservation and learning about Virginia Beach's history through Historic Preservation Month activities held in May 2026.
 - a. Hosted an event at a local restaurant to raise awareness about the historic preservation program, the HPC, and preservation/restoration needs of the Cape Henry Lighthouse.
7. The HPC completed an update of site documentation for the Cavalier Hotel preservation easements.

- a. The photographs and report provide current conditions as of October 2025 for the City's preservation and green space easements at the Cavalier Hotel.
 - b. The current documentation supplements the 2019 baseline documentation that the HPC had prepared after the Cavalier Hotel restoration/rehabilitation was completed in 2018.
 - c. The project is especially timely with the reported upcoming sale of the Cavalier Hotel to an investment company located outside of Virginia Beach.
8. Prepared, approved, and submitted a letter to the Virginia Beach Planning Commission recommending denial of the request to remove the Nimmo Church Historic and Cultural District Overlay. (attached)

Membership

Member	Term
Christi Lyons, Chair	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025 1/1/2026 – 12/31/2028
Glenn Carwell, 1 st Vice Chair	1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026
Thomas Morgan, 2 nd Vice-Chair	1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027
Bobbie Gribble, Secretary (through 12/25)	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025 3/1/2026 – 2/28/2029
Suzanne Camden, Secretary (beginning 1/26)	1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027
Derek Dubay	1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027
Sharon Felton	1/1/2024 – 12/31/2025
Harriet Frenzel	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025 3/1/2026 – 2/28/2029
Mary Miller Gentry	12/02/2025 – 3/31/2029
Richard Klobuchar	1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026
Becky Perry Livas	1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026
Vincent Lyons	9/3/2024 – 8/31/2027
Paul Morrisette	4/18/2023 – 10/26/2025
Florence Reese	9/3/2024 – 12/31/2027
John Settle	2/17/2026 – 1/31/2029
Grace Curran (Student Member)	9/16/2025 – 6/30/2026
Greyson Netter (Student Member)	9/16/2025 – 6/30/2026
Mac Rawls (Emeritus Member)	1/16/2024 – No Expiration
Joashua Schulman (City Council Liaison)	
Rosemary Wilson (City Council Liaison)	
Mark Reed (City Staff Liaison)	

Volunteer Hours

				Assignment Service Details July 2025 to June 2026 Planning and Community Development			
Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
Planning and Community Development	Planning Services	Historic Preservation Commission	Camden, Suzanne	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-03-2026	02-03-2026	1:15	1:15
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-26-2026	02-26-2026	1:00	1:00
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-26-2026	03-26-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				04-30-2026	04-30-2026	1:15	1:15
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	3:30	3:30
				05-28-2026	05-28-2026	1:00	1:00
						18:30	18:30
			Carwell, Glenn	08-28-2025	08-28-2025	1:00	1:00
				09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				09-25-2025	09-25-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				10-30-2025	10-30-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-20-2025	11-20-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-03-2026	02-03-2026	1:15	1:15
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				03-26-2026	03-26-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	2:00	2:00
				05-28-2026	05-28-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						21:15	21:15
			DuBay, Derek Hayden	10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:00	1:00
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				03-26-2026	03-26-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-31-2026	03-31-2026	1:00	1:00
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						8:00	8:00
			Felton, Sharon	09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:00	1:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0	0
				03-11-2026	03-11-2026	1:00	1:00
						6:00	6:00
			Frenzel, Harriet	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0	0
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						9:00	9:00
			Gentry, Mary	01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	2:00	2:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						7:45	7:45
			Gribble, Bobbie	07-31-2025	07-31-2025	1:15	1:15
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:00	1:00
				08-28-2025	08-28-2025	1:00	1:00
				09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				09-25-2025	09-25-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				10-30-2025	10-30-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	3:30	3:30
				11-20-2025	11-20-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0	0
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	2:00	2:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-06-2026	06-06-2026	2:00	2:00
						23:45	23:45
			Klobuchar, Richard	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	2:00	2:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						12:30	12:30
			Livas, Becky (Ellen)	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0	0
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						11:00	11:00
			Lyons, Christi	07-31-2025	07-31-2025	1:15	1:15
				08-05-2025	08-05-2025	1:00	1:00
				08-08-2025	08-08-2025	1:00	1:00
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:00	1:00
				08-28-2025	08-28-2025	0:15	0:15
				08-28-2025	08-28-2025	1:00	1:00
				09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:00	1:00
				09-25-2025	09-25-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				10-30-2025	10-30-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	2:30	2:30
				11-20-2025	11-20-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-10-2025	12-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				02-03-2026	02-03-2026	1:15	1:15
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-10-2026	02-10-2026	13:30	13:30
				02-26-2026	02-26-2026	1:00	1:00
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-11-2026	03-11-2026	1:00	1:00
				03-26-2026	03-26-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				04-15-2026	04-15-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-30-2026	04-30-2026	1:15	1:15
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	4:00	4:00
				05-28-2026	05-28-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
						49:45	49:45
			Lyons, Vincent	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	2:00	2:00
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:30	1:30
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	2:00	2:00
						12:15	12:15
			Morgan, Thomas	07-31-2025	07-31-2025	1:15	1:15
				08-28-2025	08-28-2025	1:00	1:00
				09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				09-25-2025	09-25-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	3:30	3:30
				11-20-2025	11-20-2025	1:30	1:30
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-03-2026	02-03-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-26-2026	03-26-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				04-30-2026	04-30-2026	1:15	1:15
				05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	4:00	4:00
						23:45	23:45
			Morrisette, Paul	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
						3:00	3:00
			Rawls, Mac C	11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-31-2026	03-31-2026	1:00	1:00
						3:45	3:45
			Reese, Florence	09-03-2025	09-03-2025	2:00	2:00
				10-01-2025	10-01-2025	1:00	1:00
				11-05-2025	11-05-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-03-2025	12-03-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-07-2026	01-07-2026	0:45	0:45
				02-04-2026	02-04-2026	0:45	0:45
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
Total Grand total	Total	Total	Settle, John	05-06-2026	05-06-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-27-2026	05-27-2026	2:00	2:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-06-2026	06-06-2026	2:00	2:00
						15:15	15:15
				03-04-2026	03-04-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-01-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-03-2026	06-03-2026	1:00	1:00
						3:15	3:15
						228:45	228:45
						228:45	228:45
						228:45	228:45
						228:45	228:45

Financial Report

FY26 Non-Personnel Operating Budget - 100.204.1110.605520	Appropriation - \$89,158
Expenditures	
Historic Markers/Signs	\$26,574
Public Meetings, Advocacy, and Training	\$3,708
Historic Preservation Month Promotions and Activities	\$3,988
Professional Services	
- Update of Older (pre-1990) existing NRHP Nominations - Historic Context Post-WWII Suburban Development – Developers, Builders, and Realtors - Architectural Survey of post-WWII Neighborhoods	\$48,165
Total Expenditures	\$82,435
Grant - Certified Local Government (Federal)	\$8,775

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

Complete the following ongoing projects:

- Update of 2 outdated existing pre-1990 NRHP nominations – Upper Wolfsnare and Seatack Life Saving Station/U.S. Coast Guard Station.
- Development of Historic Context for Post-WWII developers, builders, and real estate professionals in Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach and other regional entities to supplement recently completed broader post-WWII historic context.
- Complete NRHP nomination for Gunning and Hunt Clubs of Princess Anne County MPD and Pocahontas Fowling Club.
- Complete Survey and Summary Report of historically African American communities of Doyletown and Queen City.
- Installation of identification signs for designated NRHP Historic Districts.
- Additional survey of post-World War II neighborhoods.
- Interpretive signs for historic Princess Anne Courthouse area.

Initiate the following projects:

- Update of additional outdated existing pre-1990 NRHP nominations (Old Donation Church).
- Development and implementation of a maintenance and treatment plan for Virginia Historical Highway Markers in Virginia Beach, including refurbishment of three markers and replacement of one marker (First Landing).

- Manufacture and installation of the first Virginia Beach Historical Highway Marker to supplement state program.
- Preparation of intensive level survey to state standards of up to four (4) post-World War II neighborhoods previously identified as potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Continuation of existing programs:

- Engage citizens in the historic preservation program:
 - Host a Public Meeting
 - Plan and implement Historic Preservation Month (May) events
 - Continue to engage students through the Student Leaders Committee
- Support for local history research and documentation initiatives through the Commission's research grant program.

The above goals and objectives will assist the Historic Preservation Commission to achieve its mission to preserve, protect and maintain the historic identity of Virginia Beach and the former Princess Anne County through advocacy and increased public awareness and involvement.

Recommendations to City Council

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends the establishment of a sign program to identify neighborhoods and communities that are listed as National Register Historic Districts. Since 2017, the HPC has successfully sponsored listing for nine historic districts in the National Register of Historic Places. Such recognition promotes pride in community and appreciation of the City's history. The sign program will serve to support this and to increase public awareness about historical areas in Virginia Beach, furthering the HPC's mission. The HPC has requested the Planning and Community Development Department to bring this signage program forward to you for your consideration.

Closing

Should you have any questions or require a formal City Council briefing on the work of this team, please feel free to reach out to Christi Lyons, Chair at christilyons4547@gmail.com or Mark Reed, Historic Preservation Planner, at mreed@vbgov.com.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Roger W. Kirchen
Director
Tel: (804) 367-2323
www.dhr.virginia.gov

April 29, 2026

Mark Reed, Preservation Planner
City of Virginia Beach
Dept. of Planning and Community Development
2405 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Re: Weblin House, 2025 Update and Boundary Decrease, City of Virginia Beach

Dear Mr. Reed:

I am pleased to inform you that the above-named additional documentation is now included in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service (NPS), a division of the U.S. Department of Interior, officially added this additional documentation to the National Register on **April 16, 2026**. National Register listing is an honorary designation that recognizes our nation's historic places that are significant, including individual buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts.

I also want to let you know about DHR services and programs that may interest you. To begin, please know that should you have any questions or plans pertaining to historic properties in your jurisdiction, DHR is happy to offer consultation, especially regarding actions that might impact the historic integrity of buildings and structures or belowground archaeological resources. We encourage everyone to learn more about best stewardship practices and our staff stands ready to assist in that capacity.

As the Certified Local Government (CLG) coordinator in your community, you are already aware of DHR's CLG program, which gives local governments a way to participate more formally in the state and national historic preservation programs. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that participation in the CLG program entitles your community to access technical assistance from DHR and the National Park Service, to apply for grants for preservation projects, to obtain annual staff training, and to educate your constituents about their community's unique history. Detailed information about the CLG program is available at <http://dhr.virginia.gov/clg/clg.htm>.

Also, you may wish to learn more about Virginia's Rehabilitation Tax Credit (RTC) program, which is administered by DHR. The economic impact of the rehabilitation tax credit program can be important to local economies by stimulating investment in and redevelopment of historic properties, improving real estate, and creating local jobs. Virginia provides a 25 percent tax credit on eligible expenses to property owners who rehabilitate their Register-listed properties according to preservation standards. Moreover, if a National Register-listed historic property is used for income-producing purposes, it may also qualify for a federal RTC offering a 20 percent tax credit on qualified rehabilitation expenses. These credits may be utilized over a number of years. Projects using either state or federal RTCs must comply with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. Please contact DHR if you would like to obtain more information about how your community can promote use of the RTC program, or visit our website at http://dhr.virginia.gov/tax_credits/tax_credit.htm.

On behalf of DHR, I extend our congratulations for the listing of this property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Kirchen
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Roger W. Kirchen
Director
Tel: (804) 367-2323
www.dhr.virginia.gov

April 29, 2026

Mark Reed, Preservation Planner
City of Virginia Beach
Dept. of Planning and Community Development
2405 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Re: Pleasant Hall 2025 Update, City of Virginia Beach

Dear Mr. Reed:

I am pleased to inform you that the above-named additional documentation is now included in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service (NPS), a division of the U.S. Department of Interior, officially added this additional documentation to the National Register on **March 10, 2026**. National Register listing is an honorary designation that recognizes our nation's historic places that are significant, including individual buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts.

I also want to let you know about DHR services and programs that may interest you. To begin, please know that should you have any questions or plans pertaining to historic properties in your jurisdiction, DHR is happy to offer consultation, especially regarding actions that might impact the historic integrity of buildings and structures or belowground archaeological resources. We encourage everyone to learn more about best stewardship practices and our staff stands ready to assist in that capacity.

As the Certified Local Government (CLG) coordinator in your community, you are already aware of DHR's CLG program, which gives local governments a way to participate more formally in the state and national historic preservation programs. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that participation in the CLG program entitles your community to access technical assistance from DHR and the National Park Service, to apply for grants for preservation projects, to obtain annual staff training, and to educate your constituents about their community's unique history. Detailed information about the CLG program is available at <http://dhr.virginia.gov/clg/clg.htm>.

Also, you may wish to learn more about Virginia's Rehabilitation Tax Credit (RTC) program, which is administered by DHR. The economic impact of the rehabilitation tax credit program can be important to local economies by stimulating investment in and redevelopment of historic properties, improving real estate, and creating local jobs. Virginia provides a 25 percent tax credit on eligible expenses to property owners who rehabilitate their Register-listed properties according to preservation standards. Moreover, if a National Register-listed historic property is used for income-producing purposes, it may also qualify for a federal RTC offering a 20 percent tax credit on qualified rehabilitation expenses. These credits may be utilized over a number of years. Projects using either state or federal RTCs must comply with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. Please contact DHR if you would like to obtain more information about how your community can promote use of the RTC program, or visit our website at http://dhr.virginia.gov/tax_credits/tax_credit.htm.

On behalf of DHR, I extend our congratulations for the listing of this property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Kirchen
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
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March 25, 2026

Mark Reed, Hist. Preservation Planner
City of Virginia Beach, Department of Planning
2405 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Re: Holland-de Witt Cottage, 2025 Update, City of Virginia Beach

Dear Mr. Reed:

I am pleased to inform you that the above-named property is now officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service (NPS), a division of the U.S. Department of Interior, officially added this property to the National Register on **March 11, 2026**. National Register listing is an honorary designation that recognizes our nation's historic places that are significant, including individual buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts. Additionally, the property was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources at their meeting on **December 11, 2025**.

I also want to let you know about DHR services and programs that may interest you. To begin, please know that should you have any questions or plans pertaining to historic properties in your jurisdiction, DHR is happy to offer consultation, especially regarding actions that might impact the historic integrity of buildings and structures or belowground archaeological resources. We encourage everyone to learn more about best stewardship practices and our staff stands ready to assist in that capacity.

As the Certified Local Government (CLG) coordinator in your community, you are already aware of DHR's CLG program, which gives local governments a way to participate more formally in the state and national historic preservation programs. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that participation in the CLG program entitles your community to access technical assistance from DHR and the National Park Service, to apply for grants for preservation projects, to obtain annual staff training, and to educate your constituents about their community's unique history. Detailed information about the CLG program is available at <http://dhr.virginia.gov/clg/clg.htm>.

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On behalf of DHR, I extend our congratulations on the listing of this property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Kirchen
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

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December 3, 2025

Holly Cuellar, Chair
City of Virginia Beach
Planning Commission
Building 3, 2403 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Sent by email only to: mcoleman@vbgov.com

Subject: An Ordinance to Remove GPIN 24140508440000 and a Portion of GPIN 24140549120000 from the Nimmo Church Historic and Cultural District and to Amend the Official Zoning Map of the City of Virginia Beach to Eliminate the Nimmo Church Historic and Cultural District

Dear Ms. Cuellar and Members of the Virginia Beach Planning Commission:

Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance in The Code of the City of Virginia Beach establishes the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) as the body to advise City Council on the consideration of the need to establish or expand Historic and Cultural Districts (HCD) in the city. The City Attorney's Office has informed the HPC that the above noted ordinance to remove the zoning overlay from the Nimmo Church HCD will be on the Planning Commission's agenda on December 10, 2025. The HPC has discussed the ordinance and are providing comments to the Planning Commission.

The HPC met on December 3, 2025 and considered the ordinance to remove the HCD District zoning overlay and eliminate the Nimmo Church district. The HPC voted unanimously to inform you that we are strongly urging the Planning Commission to recommend denial of the ordinance to remove the zoning overlay and eliminate the Nimmo Church HCD. The reasons behind this recommendation include:

- The HCD for Nimmo Church was established 45 years ago and the building is significant to Virginia Beach's history, culture, and historical identity.
- The intent of City Council in establishing HCDs is to protect the historic significance and integrity of the properties within historic and cultural districts. Removing the zoning overlay will eliminate that protection for the Nimmo Church property and district.
- The intent in establishing HCDs is also to protect these historic resources from future owners or trustees that may not understand or appreciate the preservation of the historical character of a building or its setting.

- The requested removal of the HCD zoning overlay by the current owners/stewards of Nimmo Church suggests that such protection is needed more than ever to protect the historical character and integrity of the Nimmo Church building and district.
- Removal of the Historic and Cultural District zoning overlay for the Nimmo Church district will establish a bad precedent. Should other districts follow suit, such an action would threaten the integrity of Virginia Beach's historic preservation program, which is viewed by the State Historic Preservation Office as a model program for Virginia communities .
- Justifiable reasons for removal of the zoning overlay from a Historic and Cultural District would be if the district's historic resources were no longer present or if they were damaged to the extent that they no longer possessed historical integrity or significance. These are not stated reasons for this request, nor are these conditions that are applicable to the Nimmo Church HCD.

Please consider the HPC's unanimous recommendation for the Planning Commission to recommend denial of the ordinance to remove the Historic and Cultural District zoning overlay from Nimmo Church. If you have any questions about the HPC or our position on the ordinance under consideration, please contact me at 757-652-9507 or by email at christilyons4547@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Christi G. Lyons
Chair, Historic Preservation Commission

MAR/cgl

cc: Marchelle Coleman
Mark Reed