

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Planning and Community Development Conference Room, 2875 Sabre Street, Suite 500

November 2, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Approved December 7, 2022

Present

Officers:	Chair, James Wood (remote); First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott (remote); Second Vice-Chair, Christi Lyons, Secretary, Bobbie Gribble
Members:	Glenn Carwell, Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Natalie Hubbard, Richard Klobuchar, Lee Lockamy, Jenna Morris, Tim Oksman, Katie Paulson
Staff:	Mark Reed, Elizabeth Nowak
Presenters:	Debra McClane (remote)
Public:	Robert Bruce
Purpose	The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Department of Planning and Community Development and museums 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 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.

Second Vice-Chair Christi Lyons called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. She turned the meeting over to Mark Reed to introduce the speaker for the presentation.

Mr. Reed said that Debra McClane is joining us virtually to discuss the National Register of Historic Places nomination that she has prepared for the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District.

Ms. McClane provided an overview of the neighborhood, which is located along Mill Dam Road across from the Cape Henry Collegiate school. She noted that the neighborhood was platted in 1955 with 81 home sites. She said all 81 houses are still extant and only one parcel at a corner of the district has been subdivided and a new house constructed.

The houses are all in the contemporary or mid-century modern style. Ms. McClane said that this style was used sparingly in other neighborhoods in Virginia Beach and noted that Woodhurst is likely the only subdivision built in Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach with 100% contemporary style homes. The developer was Frank Whitehurst, who also developed the North Alanton neighborhood on the other side of Mill Dam Road.

Ms. McClane noted that a newspaper article said that bricks salvaged during the demolition of older buildings during the construction of the Norfolk-Portsmouth tunnel were used in carports and fireplaces in some of the Woodhurst homes. She says additional articles noted that the Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority salvaged bricks from other demolitions and they were reused in new buildings in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, so it was a typical practice at the time.

Ms. McLane said the architectural firm that designed the Woodhurst homes was Oliver and Smith , who were based in Norfolk. She said they mostly did commercial, governmental, and school designs, including many of the mid-century motels/hotels at the oceanfront. These designs often showed that they had a contemporary outlook for styles and materials. They were the firm that designed the Virginia Beach Dome. Only one other residential development has been associated with the firm and it was more traditional in its styles.

Oliver and Smith designed four models for Woodhurst. Most of these have remained intact and all are identifiable. Some of the residents had copies of the floor plans and front elevations for each of the models. Ms. McClane said that one of the residents went around the neighborhood and identified each home's model type. She said their information checked out perfectly when she did her survey. There are 21 examples each of models 1, 2, and 3. There are 18 examples of model 4. There is no instance where two houses adjacent to each other featured the same model design.

Ms. McClane then showed slides of each house model and described their characteristics and features. She also showed examples of the salvaged brick features in some of the homes. Ms. McClane also showed some examples from interiors of the Woodhurst homes. She noted that the interiors are not considered for the nomination, but many still have original features, such as the Philippine mahogany paneling, parquet flooring, and cork flooring tiles in the kitchen.

Ms. McClane noted that the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District qualifies for listing under:

Criterion A: associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history – in the area of Community Planning and Development, and in the area of Architecture.

Criterion C: embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction – the Period of Significance is 1955 – 1960, and 61 of the 81 primary buildings are Contributing Resources.

Ms. McClane showed the resource map showing the contributing vs. non-contributing resources (see Appendix 1).

Ms. McClane said the next steps will be the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District public hearing hosted by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR). It will be held on November 3 at the Great Neck Recreation Center at 6:00 p.m. The nomination will then be on the agenda for the December 8, joint meeting of DHR's State Review Board and Board of Historic Resources at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond at 10:00 a.m. It is then expected that it will be listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February or March of 2023.

Ms. Lyons thanked Ms. McClane for her presentation and for the great work she has done on the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District nomination.

During Ms. McClane's presentation, two Commission members, Jimmy Wood and Sharon Prescott, joined the meeting remotely. Secretary Bobbie Gribble asked each of them why they were attending remotely and where they were located. Mr. Wood said he is attending remotely due to medical reasons and is located in his house in Virginia Beach. Ms. Prescott said she is attending remotely due to medical reasons and is located in her house in Virginia Beach.

Mr. Wood then assumed the duties of chair for the meeting. He asked the members present to review the minutes of the October 5, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting and provide any corrections or additions. Rick Klobuchar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Harriet Frenzel seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the October 5 minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Wood then asked for the committee reports. Jenna Morris reported for the Student Leaders Committee. Ms. Morris said the committee met on October 12 and the members have selected Clio entries to research and write. She said committee members will attend the November 9 Public Meeting in lieu of their regular November meeting scheduled for the same date.

Mr. Wood asked Ms. Lyons to report on the upcoming public meeting. Ms. Lyons said that the Commission's Public Meeting is coming up next Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Library Auditorium. She went over the agenda for the meeting (see Appendix 2). Ms. Lyons noted that there would be presentations on the Motels MPD and the L & J Gardens Historic District. She asked everyone to attend and to get the word out. Mr. Reed said he would send out a link to the press release that they can share. He said the release was issued on October 27 and noted that he has sent out direct emails to previous attendees and to others.

Mr. Wood asked Mr. Reed to provide project updates. Mr. Reed started with National Register nominations. He noted that we are still waiting for action by the National Park Service on the **Blue Marlin** and **Crest Kitchenette** nominations.

Mr. Reed said that the Commission has just heard a presentation on the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District. He reiterated that there will be a Public Hearing on November 3 and then the nomination will be heard by the Board of Historic Resources on their December 8 agenda. Mr. Reed asked if the Historic Preservation Commission wants to send a letter of support for the nomination. Mr. Klobuchar made a motion for the Commission to send a letter to the state in support of the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District nomination. The motion was seconded by Sharon Felton. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

For the Seatack Historic District, Mr. Reed said we are waiting for review comments from DHR staff. He said we are currently expecting the Seatack nomination to be on the March 16 Board of Historic Resources agenda.

Mr. Reed said the nominations for the Chesapeake Beach Historic District and the Newsom Farm Cemetery are still in their early stages. He said staff and their consultant made presentations to the Chesapeake Beach Civic League on October 17 and to the Newsome Farm Civic League on October 19.

Mr. Reed then discussed the National Register Preliminary Information Forms (PIFs). He said that the archaeologist's report has been received and forward to DHR for their review on the Pleasant Ridge School site archaeological investigation. He said they are waiting to see if DHR recommends including that the property is also potentially eligible under Criterion D for listing in the National Register.

For the Gun and Hunt Clubs MPD and the accompanying Pocahontas Hunt Club Individual Property, Mr. Reed said that is just underway. He said the project kickoff meeting took place October 18 and the consultant made a site visit to the Pocahontas Club building the same day.

Mr. Reed moved forward with discussing the archaeological assessment projects. He said the James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc (JRIA) has completed auger testing on the Kempsville Canal - Kayak Launch site. Their conclusion is that the project will not impact any archaeological resources.

Mr. Reed said the Estates Court site project will be able to move forward. He announced that the state will contribute \$15,000 for the project, in addition to the \$10,000 that the Commission has committed. This should allow us to cover the entire subject parcel with a Phase 1 survey. Mr. Reed noted that DHR will involve the Nansemond Indian Nation in the project as they are getting funding from their tribal involvement fund. He said the archaeology will be performed by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR). It looks like it will start about the end of November.

For the City's local historical marker program, the recently revised design that was approved by the Commission will be reviewed by the State Review Board at their December 8 meeting. Internally, Mr. Reed said the Zoning Administrator has established a policy that provides for marker approval by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Public Works department. It does not require a sign permit or review by Zoning for markers that will be located in the public right-of-way

Mr. Wood asked Elizabeth Nowak to provide the Historic Properties Glimpse. Ms. Nowak said that there is only one item coming before the Historical Review Board's November 16 meeting. The application is in the Francis Land House Historic District and is a request for a sign replacement by the Village Shoppes at Rose Hall. They want to replace their existing property identification sign with a directory sign. Ms. Nowak noted that the shopping center sits perpendicular to Virginia Beach Boulevard, so it is difficult if not impossible for drivers to see the business signs. This will assist in bringing business into the shops.

Jimmy Wood moved the meeting on to Old Business. Mr. Reed noted that the Native American Heritage Month proclamation will be read at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m. He said that it will take place in Council Chamber on the second floor of the new Building 1, which is located between and somewhat behind Building 2 and the old City Hall building.

There was no additional Old Business.

Mr. Wood then asked for New Business. Mr. Reed had several informational items on the agenda. He noted that Preservation Virginia has invited the Commission to their 230th Birthday Celebration for the Cape Henry Lighthouse. It will be held on Wednesday, November 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Reaver Beach Brewing in Virginia Beach. He said it is located at 1505 Taylor Farm Road. Mr. Reed noted that a lighthouse trivia event is planned.

Mr. Reed said that in honor of the anniversary of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing there will be a Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 5181 Singleton Way. He said the Sons of the American Revolution will be doing the wreath laying.

Mr. Reed then announced that there will be a Great Bridge Battle Commemoration held on December 3 at 11:00 a.m. The event will take place at the Great Bridge Battlefield located at 1775 Historic Way in Chesapeake.

Mr. Reed introduced the member of the public attending as Robert Bruce and said he is with the Sons of the American Revolution and asked if he had anything to say. Mr. Bruce said he had come to observe the Commission and to inform them of the upcoming events. He thanked Mr. Reed for covering them.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be on Wednesday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Appendix 1

This map of the Woodhurst Historic District in Virginia Beach, Virginia, illustrates the locations of contributing and non-contributing resources. The district is bounded by Mill Dam Rd to the north, Graham Rd to the south, and Sandpiper Ct to the east. The map shows a grid of streets including Mill Dam Rd, Woodhurst Dr, Strawberry Ln, and Graham Rd. Numerous individual parcels are identified with their addresses and corresponding DHR (Designated Historic Resource) labels. A legend in the bottom right corner defines the symbols used: a white outline for the district boundary, a white box for structures, a grey box for contributing resources, and a black box for non-contributing resources. A scale bar indicates a distance of 200 feet, and a north arrow is located in the top left corner.

City of Virginia Beach
Woodhurst Historic District

Legend:
 District
 Structures
 Contributing Resources
 Non-Contributing Resources
 DHR Label = (134-5874-XXXX)

Scale: 0 120 240 Feet
1"=200'

Map Labels:
 MILL DAM RD
 WOODHURST DR
 STRAWBERRY LN
 GRAHAM RD
 SANDPIPER CT
 EGRET PT
 DHR#0001 through DHR#0077
 1341 WOODHURST through 1349 GRAHAM

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- Test Your Knowledge of Local History – Watch the Screen
- Welcome and Introductions – Sharon Prescott, VBHPC First Vice-Chair
 - Overview of VBHPC
- Award of Distinction for Excellence in Historical Rehabilitation – Sharon Prescott
 - Cape Henry Lighthouse – Elizabeth Kostelny (?)
- Distinguished Service Award – Sharon Prescott
 - 2009 Historic Preservation Commission Members
- Oceanfront Resort Motels and Hotels (1955-1970) MPD and Individual Nominations
 - Debra McClane and Kristen Kirchen, Architectural Historians
- Overview of Historic Preservation Program and Activities, 2019 - 2022 – Mark Reed
- L & J Gardens Neighborhood Historic District National Register of Historic Places
 - Debra McClane, Edna Hawkins-Hendrix, and Dr. Joanne Lucas
- Student Leaders Committee – Natalie Hubbard and Jenna Morris, Student Members
- Audience Interactive Activity – Christy Lyons, VBHPC Second Vice-Chair
- Closing Remarks – Sharon Prescott, VBHPC First Vice-Chair