

Priority Recommendations for Historic Preservation in Albemarle County
with
Historic Preservation Committee Accomplishments in 2014

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.
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 have completed the process of identifying each individual property in each of the county's National Register Historic Districts as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the overall significance of the district. County staff are now working to incorporate this information into the County's GIS.
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: Four committee members serve on a subcommittee to identify recently sold properties of historic value. In 2014, of the 106 notifications received, 43 letters were sent to new property owners to inform them of the historic character of their houses, to encourage preservation, to inform the owners of potential tax credits, and to offer the HPC as an information resource. Four letter recipients subsequently contacted the County with requests for information. HPC members responded by sending information by email and/or by visiting the property with the 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: In 2014 twenty-six applications were made for demolition permits. Ten of those buildings were documented by members of the HPC and/or staff prior to demolition. Nine of the 26 were determined to be not historically significant. One was already mostly demolished when the permit application was made. (The owner of that property promised to send pre-demolition photos of the building, but never did.) Three of the properties were used for fire training. Access was not allowed to three properties. In addition to properties documented prior to demolition, some committee members and staff documented the significant historic features of the Old Crozet Library. Michie House at St. Margaret's Farm in Keswick was also documented, and a builder involved in work at Breezy Oaks sought advice from a committee member on the renovation of that property.

The Historic Preservation Committee recommended revised Comprehensive Plan text regarding 1) documentation before demolition and 2) the southern and western neighborhoods. The text was included in the final version of the document.

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 creation of 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: Committee members have completed drafts of the various chapters of 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, links to sources of historic information, including photos and maps, and more. Editing of the document is nearing completion. The document will be available on-line at the Historic Preservation Committee's web [page](#).

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 2014, the Historic Preservation Committee was represented at the annual meeting of the Piedmont Area Preservation Alliance by the committee's chairperson.

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 recent updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The county's GIS web was recently updated with 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 did not address this issue in 2014.
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, and 2013. The committee did not address the need for an historic overlay district ordinance in 2014.