



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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16 March 2026

Mr. Roger W. Kirchen
ATTN: Ms. Sherry Teal
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Project Name: Route 695 Bridge (Hamilton Road Bridge) Replacement
VDOT Project Number: 00695-054-28039410
City/County: Louisa County
DHR File Number: 2025-3852 (see also 2024-4255)
Funding: State
RE: Reinitiate consultation due to a change in project scope for the replacement of Hamilton Road (Rte. 695) Bridge

Dear Mr. Kirchen:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is reinitiation consultation with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) regarding a change in project scope associated with the replacement of the structurally deficient Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge (Structure No. 6057) which carries Route 695/Hamilton Road over the north fork of the South Anna River in Louisa County. As you are aware, VDOT and DHR completed consultation on this solely state-funded project with the execution of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on 29 September 2025 pursuant to the terms of the existing *Programmatic Agreement Between the Virginia Departments of Transportation and Historic Resources Concerning Interagency Project Coordination* executed in 1999 (1999 State PA). Recently, VDOT Cultural Resources staff were made aware of a change in the project scope that now requires limited vegetative removal and preparation of an equipment and staging area outside of existing VDOT right-of-way. Regrettably, the District Bridge Division already completed much of the proposed work prior to notifying VDOT Cultural Resources staff of the change.

Description of Change in Project Scope

The VDOT District Bridge Division identified the need to conduct limited vegetative and selective tree removal in preparation for the replacement of existing Structure No. 6057. The work that is already completed, and the work still planned, was done and will be done with property owner permission. The necessary preliminary work is outside of VDOT right-of-way and consists of the following:

Manning-Smith Property, 1611 Hamilton Road (“The Glass House”, northeast corner of Structure No. 6057): For an area approximately two hundred (200) feet long and forty (40) feet wide, light mowing and brush removal, and the removal of four (4) small trees (see Figures 1 and 2). This property will be used to stage equipment, materials, and access the bridge during project construction. Ground disturbance or grading is not planned. The VDOT has not begun working on the Manning-Smith property.

Haney Property, 6615 Poindexter Road (southeast corner of Structure No. 6057): For an area approximately two hundred (200) feet long and forty (40) feet wide, light mowing and brush removal (see Figure 3 and 4). This property will be used to stage equipment, materials, and access the bridge during project construction. Ground disturbance or grading is not planned. The VDOT has not begun working on the Haney property.

Lecky Property, 1500 Hamilton Road (“Hard Bargain”), southwest corner of Structure No. 6057): For an area approximately two hundred (200) feet long and forty (40) feet wide, light mowing and brush removal (see Figure 5 and 6). The VDOT has already completed the work on the Lecky property. However, no ground disturbance or grading was done.

Frances Smith Property, no-known address (Parcel ID: 37 20D; northwest corner of Structure No. 6057): For an area approximately two hundred (200) feet long and eighty (80) feet wide, light mowing and brush removal, and the removal of fourteen (14) trees of varying sizes (see Figure 7 and 8). Installation of timber crane mats, erosion fence, and stone to minimize ground disturbance and damage during use. This property will be used to stage equipment, materials, and access the bridge during project construction. The VDOT has already completed the work on the Frances Smith property. However, no ground disturbance or grading was done, but some dirt was added in places to level areas.

Historic Property in the Area of Potential Effects

The sites identified for vegetative clearing and equipment staging are located within the architectural Area of Potential Effects (APE) that VDOT previously coordinated with DHR as part of our project initiation in May 2025. However, they are outside of the archaeological APE previously coordinated as that APE only extended to existing VDOT right-of-way. The VDOT recommends that an expanded archaeological APE for the change in project scope includes the four (4) areas illustrated in Figures 1, 3, 5, and 7. The following historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) are directly impacted by the current change in project scope:

Green Springs Rural Historic District (054-0111): Green Springs Rural Historic District consists of approximately 14,000 acres of largely pastoral farmland remarkably little changed in its rustic character since the eighteenth century. The landscape in the district includes rolling agricultural fields, wooded areas, numerous stately homes, and smaller farmsteads dating from the Colonial Era to the early 1900s. Green Springs Rural Historic District was listed on the VLR and NRHP in 1973 and became a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1974. Although the nomination does not identify a period of significance, it is assumed to be between the eighteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. While the nomination does not state which criterion the historic district is significant under, the most recent survey in V-CRIS, dated July 2025, states that the historic district is significant under Criteria A and C.

Hard Bargain (054-0084): Hard Bargain is a circa-1890 Carpenter Gothic dwelling with a contemporaneously constructed detached kitchen and numerous support buildings and structures dating from the 1940s to the present. In August 2025, VDOT recommend, and DHR concurred, that Hard Bargain is individually eligible for listing in the VLR/NRHP for its architectural merit as a well preserved late-19th century Carpenter Gothic dwelling (Criterion C). It is also a contributing resource to the Green Springs Rural Historic District.

The Glass House (054-5043/054-0111-0039): The Glass House is a circa-1960 dwelling with a circa-1960 workshop and a circa-1960 shed. It sits on an approximately four-acre parcel, which is almost entirely wooded except for the small clearing that contains the improvements. In August 2025, VDOT and DHR agreed to consider the Glass House as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP/VLR under Criterion C as a representative type of a Midcentury Modern rural residence. It also contributes to the Green Springs Rural Historic District

Effect Determination

Green Springs Rural Historic District (054-0111): The four (4) project staging areas are located within the NHL boundary of the Green Springs Rural Historic District. A small amount of underbrush clearing and selective tree removal is necessary, and has already occurred, on properties contributing to the NHL, however, no ground disturbing activities have happened or are planned. In addition, VDOT will stage equipment and materials during the project on the Frances Smith property near the northwest corner of the existing bridge. The staging area requires temporary installation of laydown mats, stone, and silt fencing to protect the soil from erosion (see Figures 9, 10, and 11). Upon completion of the project, VDOT shall work with the respective property owners to ensure that the areas of the work are restored as closely as practicable to their original appearance prior to the construction activities.

Although the work in the Green Springs Rural Historic District will necessitate vegetative clearing and introduction of VDOT equipment and bridging materials causing a visual change to the historic property's setting and feeling, these changes will only last for the duration of the project. The temporary alterations to the historic setting and feeling will occur only to a very small portion of the overall NHL district. Additionally, after project completion, VDOT will work with property owners to restore the pre-construction appearance of the impacted areas to the greatest extent practicable. Archaeological sites, if present, will not be impacted because

there has not been any ground disturbance, nor is there any planned. For these reasons, VDOT recommends that the proposed work will have no adverse effect on the Green Springs Rural Historic District.

Hard Bargain (054-0084): The work required VDOT to remove a forty (40)-foot by two hundred (200)-foot thicket of brambles along Hamilton Road and located within the boundary of a preservation easement held by the National Park Service (NPS) on the property (see Figures 12 and 13). Because this area is held by NPS in easement, VDOT does not plan to stage, locate or traverse any equipment or materials on the property, or otherwise further impact the property beyond the already accomplished underbrush removal, during construction. Therefore, VDOT recommends the work has no effect on Hard Bargain.

The Glass House (054-5043/054-0111-0039): Work on the Glass House property has not occurred yet; however, it will require the removal of four small trees in addition to clearing of underbrush near the northeast end of the existing bridge (see Figure 2). There is no plan for any ground disturbing activities. This property is under a conservation easement held by Historic Green Springs, Inc. (HGSI). Although the work will result in temporary alterations to the setting and feeling of the historic property, the Glass House is significant for its architectural merits as a representative type of a Midcentury Modern rural residence. The proposed work will not impact any of the characteristics which make the property eligible for listing in the NRHP/VLR. Additionally, the small amount of vegetative clearing will not be visible from the main residence. After the project is completed, VDOT will work with the property owner and HGSI to restore the pre-construction appearance of the impacted area to the greatest extent practicable. For these reasons, VDOT recommends that the proposed work will have no effect on the Glass House.

The VDOT requests DHR concur with our assessment of effect on historic properties from the proposed work by signing the attached signature page. We further request that DHR provides its response within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at marc.holma@vdot.virginia.gov or (804) 371-6710.

Sincerely,

Marc E. Holma
Statewide Architectural Team Leader
Virginia Department of Transportation

C: Forwarded electronically to the stakeholders

FIGURES

Louisa County, VA



Figure 1. Manning-Smith Property (The Glass House), 1611 Hamilton Road



Figure 2. Manning-Smith Property, current condition

Louisa County, VA



Figure 3. Haney Property, 6615 Poindexter Road



Figure 4. Haney Property, current condition



Figure 5. Lecky Property (Hard Bargain), 1500 Hamilton Road



Figure 6. Lecky Property, prior to vegetative clearing

Louisa County, VA



Figure 7. Frances Smith Property, Parcel ID: 37 20D



Figure 8. Frances Smith Property, prior to vegetative clearing and staging area



Figure 9. Vegetative clearing and staging area on Frances Smith Property, looking east



Figure 10. Detail view of vegetative clearing and staging area on Frances Smith Property, looking east



Figure 11. Detail view of vegetative clearing and staging area on Frances Smith Property, looking west



Figure 12. Vegetative clearing on Lecky Property (Hard Bargain), looking east



Figure 13. Detail view of vegetative clearing on Lecky Property (Hard Bargain), looking west

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The Virginia Department of Historic Resources concurs with the Virginia Department of Transportation's recommendations below for VDOT's change in project scope necessary to replace the Hamilton Road/Route 695 Bridge (Structure No. 6057), Louisa County (VDOT Project Number: 00695-054-28039410; DHR File Number: 2025-3852):

- The proposed change of project scope for the replacement of the Hamilton Road/Route 695 Bridge (Structure No. 6057) will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties listed in or eligible for the NHRP/VLR.

Mr. Roger W. Kirchen
Director, Department of Historic Resources
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

Date