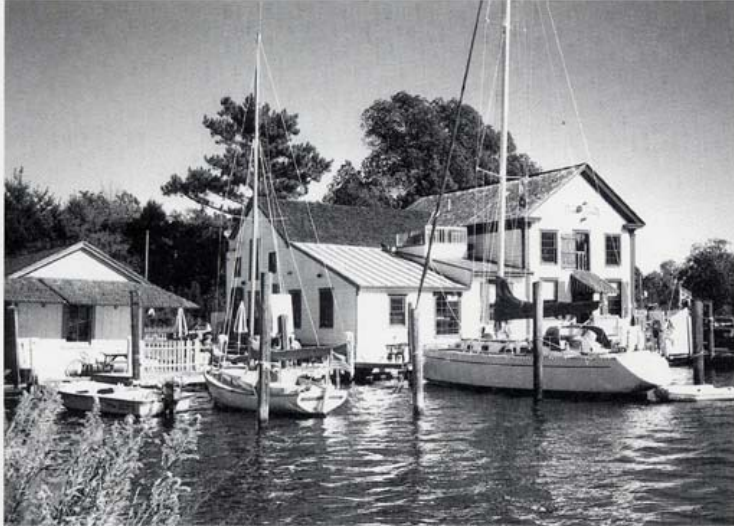


The APVA Remains True To Its Charter Purpose

by Louis J. Malon, Director of Properties



Scenic waterside view of Hopkins & Bro. Store (top) and view from the road (below).



APVA Preservation Virginia continually assesses its property holdings to ensure that it remains the proper and best custodian. The charter, recorded in 1889, charges the APVA to "preserve the ancient buildings and tombs in the state of Virginia with a view to their perpetuation and preservation."

For many years, the main—if not

sole—vehicle to accomplish this task was the acquisition and ownership of historic sites. During the first few decades, the APVA acquired many buildings that were threatened or neglected and held them for eventual restoration or simply as a way to prevent their loss. More than a century later, there are alternative methods of ensuring the preservation and

best use of these properties that do not require continued APVA ownership.

Deed restrictions and preservation easements have proven successful in providing ongoing protection for many historic structures that the APVA has returned to private ownership. The use of these deed covenants is the foundation of the Revolving Fund effort the APVA has used in ensuring the preservation of many properties during the past few years.

Through growth and maturity, the preservation movement has brought about many strong local historical and preservation organizations with a concentration in specific communities. These mechanisms provide an opportunity for the APVA to return some of our properties either to private or local ownership for protection. Hopkins and Bro. Store (1840s and 1880s) is one of these properties. Its last owner and operator, Addison Hopkins, gave property to the APVA in 1970. He was the fourth generation of his family to operate this store in the heart of



For the past two decades, the APVA sought tenants to operate Hopkins & Bro. Store as an active part of the community. This photo shows the interior of the Store at one point when the tenant sold various goods to customers.

Onancock. The Store served as the interconnection between the productive farmlands of the Eastern Shore and the commercial markets along the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coasts. Ships would export produce and import marketable goods for sale to the Shore's growing population. Rendered less necessary through the development of rail and truck transports, the Store became



During its heyday, as shown in this undated photograph, Hopkins & Bro. Store served as the interconnection between the productive farmlands of the Eastern Shore and the commercial markets along the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coasts.

more a symbol of a fleeting era than a productive enterprise. Seeking to ensure its preservation, Mr. Hopkins entrusted its care to the APVA and left a generous endowment to help secure its survival.

For the past thirty years, the Store has been used for several purposes. For the past two decades, the APVA has sought tenants who would keep the Store as an active part of the community, selling various goods and offering meals. All have started enthusiastically and with some level of interpretive content to their presentations only to have economic necessity shift their focus more to keeping the business viable and less to interpreting the history of the Store within the community.

Rather than repeat the cycle yet again, the APVA's Board of Trustees has asked us to consider alternative means to ensure the preservation of the property.

During its November meeting, the Board adopted easement language to protect the character defining features and uses of the structure regardless of future ownership. The board of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources accepted the concepts of those easements,



"Gold" cash register at Hopkins & Bro. Store.

pending final determination of the language.

Meanwhile, we have been working with the local community to receive its suggestions on the future ownership of the property. Members of the APVA Drummondtown Branch, officials and citizens of Onancock, and members of the

Eastern Shore Historical Society all weighed in with recommendations. As of this writing, the APVA is determining the future course of the property.

The APVA will continue to play an active role in the future of Hopkins and Bro. Store and in Onancock, Accomack County, and the Eastern Shore. The APVA also will continue to manage the endowment Mr. Hopkins left through his estate according to his directions—to ensure the preservation of the Store property and the greater purposes of the APVA.

The annual income from the fund will be available in the form of preservation grants to assist in keeping the Store building in good repair, regardless of its ownership. Any surplus funds will be available to support other community preservation efforts through the APVA's Drummondtown Branch.

Allowing one of our properties to leave our direct management is never an easy decision and one not made lightly. It is consistent with our belief that we need not own every property with which we are concerned. During the past several years, we have transferred properties to other ownerships.

The Custis Tombs (1696) in Northampton County are now part of the Arlington Foundation. The Ball Cemetery (1837) in Loudoun County is under the care of a newly created family association. The Old Tobacco Warehouse (1760) in Urbanna is now owned and being renovated by the Town. The Adam Craig House (1785) and the row houses (19th c.) on 19th Street in Richmond are now used actively and productively in the private sector. All of these properties are no less important or cared for less. In truth, most are receiving more attention than we could provide when they were part of our large portfolio of statewide properties.



Allowing one of our properties to leave our direct management is never an easy decision and not one made lightly. During the past several years, we have transferred properties successfully to other ownerships, such as the Custis Tombs (top), the Adam Craig House (below), the Old Tobacco Warehouse, and the row houses on 19th Street (l.) in Richmond—all used actively and productively in the private sector.



PreservationVirginia *Journal*

The APVA always will be stewards of historic properties. It is important work, and we do it well. A significant part of good stewardship is constantly evaluating the appropriateness of our means and methods of preservation. Often that review will confirm the necessity of our continued ownership, and sometimes it may not.

We assure our members and constituents that we weigh these decisions carefully and thoughtfully. We pledge always to seek widespread input into the decision process and to keep interested parties informed and involved.
