



**For Immediate Release**  
September 4, 2003

**Media Contacts:**  
*Mike Litterst*  
*National Park Service*  
*757-898-2409*

*Paula Neely*  
*APVA Preservation Virginia*  
*804-781-0116*  
*804-240-9722 (cell)*

**National Park Service and APVA  
To Build Joint Jamestown Collection Facility**

JAMESTOWN – In an unprecedented partnership effort, the National Park Service and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA Preservation Virginia) will combine resources to house their significant Jamestown artifact collections under one roof by expanding the Jamestown Rediscovery Center collections facility at Historic Jamestowne. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall.

With the addition of the new \$4.2 million, 8,000 sq. ft. wing, over 1.2 million artifacts, including pottery, arms and armor, tools, trade beads, glass, copper, jewelry, coins, and household and personal items, excavated by the National Park Service and APVA Preservation Virginia from the 1607 James Fort, the town site and other Jamestown Island sites, will be safely and conveniently stored in one building. The new facility will also include office and meeting spaces, and a conservation lab.

It will also provide safer storage for the National Park Service collection which is currently housed in the basement of the Visitor Center where it is threatened by flooding and high humidity levels.

Alec Gould, Colonial National Historical Park Superintendent, said, “Getting the NPS collection out of the basement of the old Visitor Center and out of the flood plain will be a giant step forward for the long-term preservation of this priceless 17th century collection. Having the NPS and APVA artifacts in the same location will also make the collections more valuable for researchers.”

Elizabeth S. Kostelny, executive director for APVA Preservation Virginia, said “Our commitment at Historic Jamestowne has been exemplified by internationally recognized historical archaeology research and the dissemination of our findings to a worldwide audience. Combining the collections in one facility will begin the next logical step toward making the artifacts and research available and convenient for 17<sup>th</sup> century scholars and researchers to study all of the artifacts from Jamestown. It will also enhance our ability to



APVA/PRESERVATION VIRGINIA  
204 WEST FRANKLIN STREET · RICHMOND, VA 23220-5012  
(804) 648-1889 · FAX (804) 775-0802 · WWW.APVA.ORG  
COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK · P.O. BOX 210 · YORKTOWN, VA 23690  
(757) 898-3400 · FAX (757) 898-6346 · WWW.NPS.GOV/COLO



formulate exhibits and enrich the visitor's experience at Historic Jamestowne as we continue our efforts to draw on the original resources to share the story of Jamestown with the public."

To make the expansion possible, APVA Preservation Virginia recently transferred four-tenths of an acre of land to the National Park Service, and Congress appropriated \$4.2 million for the new facility including construction, conservation and storage equipment, and furnishings.

Gould said, "APVA's granting of land for this joint collections facility is an extraordinary act of generosity and confidence in the NPS/APVA partnership at Historic Jamestown. To our knowledge, this is the first time the National Park Service and a private organization have combined their collections in this way."

In 1999, APVA Preservation Virginia completed construction of the \$1.5 million Jamestown Rediscovery Center, a state-of-the-art collections storage facility and office building, as part of their rehabilitation of the 1907 Yeardley House at Historic Jamestowne to provide safe storage for over half a million artifacts uncovered by the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project since it began in 1993.

Expanding the collection facility to accommodate the growing collections is part of the master plan for Historic Jamestowne, developed by APVA Preservation Virginia and the National Park Service in preparation for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown in 2007 and beyond. Plans also include continued archaeological and historical research through the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project; development of an "archaearium" (pronounced ark-e-air-e-um) – a new word created to describe a discovery center for archaeology with hands-on, interactive exhibits; a new visitor center, new interpretive landscape exhibits; virtual viewers; new audio tours; mobile archaeology units; and diverse transportation options for touring the island including boat tours, bike trails and walking paths.

To date, the National Park Service and APVA Preservation Virginia have jointly raised \$8.7 million for development of the master plan, which is expected to require about \$60 million to complete. Additional funding will be sought from the United States Congress, the Commonwealth of Virginia and generous individuals, foundations, corporations and government sources.

*Note to Editors:* A ceremonious groundbreaking ceremony open to the public will be held September 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Jamestowne Rediscovery Center. Members of the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission will be present along with top officials from the National Park Service and APVA Preservation Virginia.

Graphics Available: For an illustration of the facility elevation and images of artifacts go to <http://www.apva.org/press/> For password information, contact [bknowles@apva.org](mailto:bknowles@apva.org) 804-648-1889, or contact Paula Neely at 804-781-0116 or 804-240-9722 (cell), or Mike Litterst 757-898-2409.

##