

# Each May,

Preservation Virginia releases a list of historic places across the Commonwealth facing imminent or sustained threats. The list, which has brought attention to nearly 200 sites in Virginia, encourages individuals, organizations and local and state governments to advocate for their preservation and find solutions that will save these unique locations for future generations. The program has a track record of success. Only 10% of the sites listed so far were lost to demolition or neglect.

**In no particular order, Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2024 are:**



**Suffolk African American Waterman Villages**  
City of Suffolk

Two historic villages in Suffolk- Oakland and neighboring Hobson stand as testaments to the resilience and heritage of African American and Nansemond Indian communities. United in their struggles and shared history, residents from both villages have joined forces, forming advocacy groups to preserve their legacies and fight against the encroachment of modern developments. Strengthening their relationship with the City of Suffolk will be core to the success of their regional advocacy efforts as their platform expands.



**Richmond Community Hospital - City of Richmond**

Located on the Northside of Richmond in the historic Frederick Douglass Court neighborhood, the local African American community raised funds to establish this hospital to provide equitable and adequate healthcare, medical training and spiritual guidance to residents. Built in 1932, the hospital now sits vacant, neglected and unmaintained. The structure faces an uncertain future as Virginia Union University plans to develop local real estate holdings.

# Join Us!

## 187

LOCATIONS OR THEMATIC  
RESOURCES LISTED

## 50%

SAVED

## 40%

STILL  
ENDANGERED

## 10%

WERE LOST



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# Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places 2024



**Lower Surry Church**  
Surry County

The ruins of the church represent the second church constructed on this site in 1754. In 1868, the church was destroyed by a fire, and in 2003, winds from Hurricane Isabel caused a tree to crush sections of the brick walls as well. With a treatment plan in hand, the Bacon's Castle Memorial Association will have a strategy to make the case for raising funds and preserving the original brick fabric.

### **Washington Park Caretaker's Cottage - City of Roanoke**

The Washington Park Caretaker's House is one of the oldest surviving structures in Roanoke City. Following the sale of the property to the City in 1922, the land became a public park for the Black community during the Jim Crow era of segregation. Last year, the City announced plans to demolish the deteriorating house to make way for the new pool.



### **Blick Plantation Brunswick County**

The Blick Plantation is one of the few remaining undocumented 18th century plantation homes in Central Virginia. Without stabilization, a corner of the main residential structure will likely fail within the next few years. Family descendants and owners of the current home and parcel are raising awareness for this unique historic site in Southside Virginia and engaging with the local community to help share the story.



### **Massies Mill Odd Fellows Hall - Nelson County**

The Odd Fellows Hall in Massies Mill carries a significant historical legacy, serving as a vibrant center for the International Order of Odd Fellows until its closure in 2014. Now operating as the headquarters and meeting space for the Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative (CVFWI), it's become a lifeline for the Hispanic farm working community in the region. Neglected repairs left the building in dire need of attention, with its roof and foundation requiring urgent maintenance.



### **Jackson Blacksmith Shop - Goochland County**

Built around 1880 by Henry Jackson and his father, the shop provided essential blacksmithing services to residents of Goochland County and neighboring counties. Born into slavery and later sold from Louisa to Goochland, Henry Jackson purchased land at the corner of Route 607 and U.S. 522, where he established the shop. As one of only two known remaining Black-owned blacksmith shops in Virginia, the Jackson Blacksmith Shop holds immense historical significance.



### **Grand Contraband Camp City of Hampton**

Established in 1861 following the Union Army's occupation of Fort Monroe, the Grand Contraband Camp in Hampton Roads provided a sanctuary for thousands of enslaved individuals seeking refuge behind Union lines. Cemeteries associated with the site are being encroached upon by Interstate 64 expansions, resulting in an inability for descendants and researchers to reach and identify some of the older gravesites. Overgrowth in these regions has led to some graves being lost entirely.



### **Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Albemarle County**

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, established in 1879 by African American descendants of the community, stands as a testament to resilience and faith in the face of adversity. Development is quickly and aggressively reaching this portion of Albemarle County. Several historic buildings nearby were recently demolished or placed up for sale, with the church being the only remaining community-serving structure left.



### **Waterford Historic District - Loudoun County**

Settled in 1733 by Quaker farmers, the Historic Village of Waterford, sitting in the Catoclin Valley, was once a thriving agricultural and industrial community in Loudoun County. Recently, a proposal was introduced to construct 500 kV transmission lines through the Waterford Historic District for supplying data centers. These lines range from 80 to 200 feet tall, and are proposed to run through several western Loudoun County properties under conservation easements.