**Application for the “*2016-2017 State Survey and Planning Cost Share Program*”**

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR)**

**Proposed Project:** To make application to VDHR to support local efforts to identify, document, evaluate and promote the preservation of historic resources in the County of Bath

**Scope of Project/Deliverables:** A comprehensive survey of the historic resources in the Village of Warm Springs would be conducted by a qualified professional consultant identified by VDHR. The consultant will build a database, for County use, of all surveyed properties with an accompanying written report, photographs and topographic maps. This survey would also then be the basis for the nomination of Warm Springs for “Historic District” status.

**Benefits:** As outlined in the County’s “Comprehensive Plan 2014-2019,” this type of survey provides a foundation for historic preservation efforts and is a valuable resource for residents, businessesand developers. A follow-up designation as a “Historic District” qualifies property owners (residents and businesses) for financial benefits/rehabilitation tax credits, frequently enhances property values, and boosts heritage tourism programs. This “Cost Share” program has been in existence for 25 years and more than 100 localities in the Commonwealth have already benefited from this cost-sharing program.

**Why only Warm Springs?** Warm Springs is being proposed for the initial survey. This keeps costs low and will permit Bath County to decide later whether to continue in other areas. And, many of the resources needed for the survey are located in Warm Springs, the County seat, at the Courthouse, the Library and the Historical Society.

**Application Process:** This is a competitive grant program. An application from Bath County will be evaluated along with those of other Virginia communities. The application due date is April 8, 2016. It must be signed by a County official. Volunteers from Preservation Bath, working collaboratively with the Bath County Historical Society, will prepare the application.

**Project Schedule:** VDHR will announce awards on May 6. If Bath County’s project is chosen, on May 27 VDHR will issue a Request for Proposals from qualified preservation professionals. The work will begin by late August and is due to be completed by June 30, 2017.

**Cost:** VDHR advises that the cost to conduct this comprehensive survey of the historic resources in the Village of Warm Springs should be estimated at $16,000. The cost sharing program anticipates that the $8,000 contributed by VDHR will be matched in an equal amount from the County. As a service to Bath County, VDHR will assume responsibility for procurement, contract administration and documentation requirements for the project. No County staff will be saddled with project responsibilities.