

What is Preservation Bath Proposing?

- “ The County participate in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ State Survey and Planning Cost Share Program
- “ The application calls for a survey of the old village of Warm Springs
- “ To keep costs as low as possible, begin with the smallest survey option, encompassing (fill in number) historic properties
- “ Include the preparation of a nomination for the Village of Warm Springs to be designated as a “National Historic District”
- “ Allocate \$8,000 in the County’s 2016/17 budget to cover its share (50% or less) of the costs

What is a Historic Survey?

- “ A “reconnaissance” level architectural survey of all historic properties, defined as 50+ years old
- “ Serves as a foundation for historic preservation efforts, including public education
- “ Creates a valuable resource for residents, businesses and developers
- “ Facilitates the environmental review process and helps avoid costly delays for government agencies and developers
- “ Provides the foundation for the subsequent nomination of the surveyed area as a National Historic District

How Will the Survey be Done?

Public meeting at the beginning of the work with the contractor, VDHR representatives and County officials to explain what is being done and answer questions.

Opportunity to opt out

Knock on door. Show identification. Exterior only.

Usually three photographs, measurements, notes on materials, etc. No record made of owner's name.

Public meeting at the end of the project to show survey results, answer questions

What is a “National Historic District”?

- “ A significant concentration of sites, buildings and objects united historically
- “ Heritage tourism---signage, area pamphlet, walking tour, interpretive trails, website, business owners’ associations, Main Street Programs, etc.
- “ Economic Opportunities for Property Owners (Individuals /Businesses) --Tax Credits
- “ New Opportunities for Sellers and Buyers of Properties, including Developers
- “ Enhanced Sense of Community

What It Isn't

- “ No imposition of design guidelines
- “ No restriction on the use of your property
- “ No requirements to maintain, rehabilitate or restore a property
- “ No change in property taxes
- “ No automatic protection from development, demolition , etc

Why Now and Why Warm Springs?

- Bath County's 225th Anniversary
- It's Called for in the County's Comprehensive Plan
- The Homestead's Commitment to the Pools
- It's Our Turn After 25 Years and More Than 100
Virginia Localities Doing 150+ Surveys Using Bath
County Taxpayers' Money

- "Test Drive" in the County Seat
- Compact Survey Area Saves Money
- Records in the Courthouse and the Historical Society



The Last Word

The Cost Share Program offers the opportunity to do the survey and the nomination, with VDHR picking up at least half of the costs.

All of the administrative work---hiring the consultant, executing the contract, paperwork, etc.---is done by VDHR. No new work is saddled on Bath County staff.