



Virginia's Historic Courthouses Symposium | May 19-20, 2016 | Staunton, VA

Thursday, May 19

6:30 PM: Registration and Welcome Reception at the [R.R. Smith Center for History and Art](#)

7:30 PM: Welcome and remarks by John O. Peters, "The Virginia Courthouse: More than a Building," followed by book signing of *Virginia's Historic Courthouses* by John O. and Margaret T. Peters

8:30 PM: Reception concludes, dinner and remainder of the evening on your own

Friday, May 20

9:00 AM: Registration and morning coffee service at the R.R. Smith Center for History and Art

9:30 AM: Welcome remarks

9:45 am: Keynote Address, "Virginia's Great Treasures: Courthouses," by Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History at the School of Architecture, University of Virginia

10:30 AM: Concurrent sessions (40-45 minute presentations with time for Q&A; 60 minutes total)

- Peter C. Burnett, Attorney, Burnett and Williams, "The Indispensable Element of Courthouse Preservation in Virginia: Public Support," drawing on experience with Loudoun County's courthouses
- Bryan Clark Green, Director of Historic Preservation, Commonwealth Architects, "Recovering Renwick: Planning a New Future for James Renwick's Courthouse in Fredericksburg, Virginia"

11:30 AM: Plenary session

William T. Frazier, AICP and Kathleen O. Frazier, AIA, Frazier Associates, "Augusta County & Staunton Court Systems: What to Do Next?"

12:30 PM: Lunch on your own in downtown Staunton

2 PM: Plenary session

James L. Beight, AIA, Director of Justice Architecture, Dewberry Architects, Inc., and David Puckett, AIA, FPW Architects PC, "Maintaining the Viability of Virginia's Historic Courthouses"

3 PM: Plenary Panel Discussion/Conclusions/Next Steps

Don Hardenbergh, Court Works, "The Modern Courthouse: Design Guidelines and Their Impact on Historic Facilities," followed by open discussion including all speakers and attendees, moderated by Julie V. Langan, Virginia Department of Historic Resources Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

4:30 PM: Depart

About the symposium:

In 2015, historic courthouses were named to Preservation Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places list to bring attention to the challenges of maintaining these structures while enabling them to meet the needs of the 21st century. On May 19-20, Preservation Virginia and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources are partnering to present the Historic Courthouses Symposium.

Conceived as an informational meeting for those responsible for decisions pertaining to use, maintenance, restoration, and the general administration of the judicial system in Virginia, invitations have been sent to law practitioners, county commissioners and administrators, judges and court administrative staff, facility maintenance staff, architects, contractors, consultants, and historic preservation advocates.

From this symposium, we hope to craft a set of best practices and case studies that could:

- influence new legislation for the formal adoption of a historic preservation approach to courthouses,
- educate elected officials and the public on the benefits of re-use/adaptation,
- formalize the role of public participation in such important decisions

Topics to be addressed include:

- the role of public participation, funding sources, economic benefits of a historic preservation approach,
- the role of tax credits, regional governance and the relations between city and county governments,
- design-oriented issues like planning and needs assessment, incorporating historic fabric, security and life safety, energy efficiency and sustainability

On the evening of May 19, John O. Peters, a former commercial litigator who has extensive practical, research, and writing experience with Virginia's courthouses, will speak to the role courthouses play in helping to define communities throughout the Commonwealth. On Friday morning, May 20, Richard Guy Wilson, Architectural Historian from the University of Virginia, will launch the day's program with an historical overview of how courthouses and their complexes evolved over the course of Virginia's history and why they remain significant today. Additional sessions will follow, both concurrent and plenary, presenting case study explorations of specific Virginia courthouse projects, that will in turn inform the concluding session, a moderated discussion featuring all of our presenters and the participation of attendees.

For additional information, including online registration and lodging information, please visit our website at: <http://preservationvirginia.org/programs/historic-courthouse-symposium>



Preservation Virginia, a private non-profit organization and statewide historic preservation leader founded in 1889, is dedicated to perpetuating and revitalizing Virginia's cultural, architectural and historic heritage thereby ensuring that historic places are integral parts of the lives of present and future generations. Our mission is directly consistent with and supportive of Article XI of the Constitution of Virginia, benefiting both the Commonwealth and the nation. Preservation Virginia provides leadership, experience, influence, and services to the public and special audiences by saving, managing, and protecting historic places, and developing preservation policy, programs, and strategies with individuals, organizations, and local, state, and national partners.