

# *Colonial Williamsburg*

THE FIRST  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

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*A Report by the President*

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1951

*THE PURPOSE OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG*

To re-create accurately the environment of the men and women of 18th-century Williamsburg and to bring about such an understanding of their lives and times that present and future generations may more vividly appreciate the contribution of these early Americans to the ideals and culture of our country. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



*The late Rev. Dr. W. A. R. Goodwin, who dreamed of a Williamsburg restored, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who came to share that vision and make it a reality.*

# COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, INCORPORATED

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\* Elected June, 1952

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† Deceased October 18, 1952



*THE CAPITOL*

# WILLIAMSBURG RESTORATION, INCORPORATED

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† Deceased October 18, 1952

Two corporations have been organized to carry on the Restoration. Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, was formed to serve the historical and educational purposes of the organization, and holds title to properties within the designated historic area. Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, is a business organization and holds title to properties which have been purchased for business uses. The term "Colonial Williamsburg" has been adopted as the institutional name to define the entire project and includes both corporations.



*THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE*

# *Colonial Williamsburg*

## THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, at Williamsburg, Virginia, is an adventure in education. It exists for the American people and for all people everywhere who may draw spiritual strength and understanding from it. Its Trustees believe, therefore, that its affairs should be matters of public knowledge. In this report the title Colonial Williamsburg refers to the entire restoration project at Williamsburg, Virginia, and its supporting and related activities.

The year 1951 marked the close of twenty-five years of planning and rebuilding. It saw this 18th-century capital of the great Virginia colony substantially rebuilt. It looked back over a period during which an estimated six million visitors had come to Williamsburg from every state of the United States and many foreign countries to see the Restoration, to go through its exhibition buildings, and to subject themselves to the experience of stepping out of the present into another historic period of time.

Many people now know that in the 1920's the late Dr. W. A. R. Goodwin, Rector of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Professor of Biblical Literature at the College of William and Mary, walked the streets of that one-time capital of the Virginia colony, saw the last, fading vestiges of its 18th-century greatness, and mourned at the often tawdry impress of the present which seemed about to obliterate all those traces of a glorious past that still remained.

Dr. Goodwin was very much aware that Williamsburg was



unique. It had been the capital city of the Virginia colony at the time when the American dream of freedom and independence was taking form and Virginia was a rich and powerful land whose borders then reached beyond the Mississippi. It was here that Thomas Jefferson studied law. It was here that George Mason introduced the Virginia Bill of Rights, model for the Bill of Rights of our Constitution. It was here that a proud, vigorous, brilliant, courageous, and public-spirited society proclaimed the rights of man in words and deeds no American can ever forget. It was here that Washington made his headquarters for the last great battle of the American Revolution.

For eighty years, from 1699 to 1780, this now-vanishing Williamsburg had been the political and cultural center of what was then the largest, most populous, and, in many respects, the most influential of the American colonies. Furthermore, it was the only important capital of the thirteen original colonies which, as a practical matter, could be restored to its pre-revolutionary appearance.

Dr. Goodwin grieved to see the splendor of such a place fading — to see the remaining 18th-century homes overwhelmed by gas stations, telephone poles, and many shabby evidences of our times. So, as he walked the streets in the warm spring evenings he dreamed of resurrecting the Williamsburg which had meant so much to America. He saw in Williamsburg — if restored — a place where history would speak to modern Americans; where they would hear a proud voice — a voice strong with faith in God, in democracy and liberty, in integrity, high moral purpose, a sense of public duty, and responsibility. This, to him, was a shrine of the American faith.

Then, in 1926, chance brought Dr. Goodwin and John D.

Rockefeller, Jr., together one evening at a meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Out of a series of subsequent discussions came a warm friendship, which led ultimately to the rebuilding of colonial Williamsburg as nearly as possible as it was in the days of its greatness.

### *THE MEANING OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG*

Dr. Goodwin, in speaking of the restoration project, referred to it continually as a teaching influence. "I am convinced," he wrote, "that from an historical point of view this is the greatest teaching opportunity which exists in America." He saw in it a powerful influence on the spirit of Americans of all ages — and of other peoples who share the American faith in liberty and the unalienable rights of man.

"If you have ever walked around Williamsburg late on a moonlight night, when most of the people who now live here are fast asleep, and felt the presence and companionship of the people who used to live here in the long gone years, and remembered the things that they did and the things they stood for, and pictured them going into or coming out of the old houses in which they once lived, and remembered the things which they said in the House of Burgesses and at the old College — you would then know what an interesting place Williamsburg is. You would realize that it is about the most interesting place in America."

This concept was shared by Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., who wrote:

"To undertake to preserve a single building when its environment has changed and is no longer in keeping has always seemed to me unsatisfactory. . . . The restoration of Williamsburg, however, offered an opportunity to restore a complete area and

free it entirely from alien or inharmonious surroundings, as well as to preserve the beauty and charm of the old buildings and gardens of the city and its historic significance. Thus it made a unique and irresistible appeal.”

These two views, taken together, give the key to the meaning and value of the Restoration. They are a reminder that Colonial Williamsburg aims at education chiefly through experience — through a direct encounter with another environment. Colonial Williamsburg is not a dusty message, but a living voice. It speaks to different people in different tongues, because what people take away with them depends in some measure on what they bring with them. To the school child it may be a sudden awakening to the reality of history — a first awareness of the dimensions of a time and place seen before only in dimly understood words. To the thoughtful citizen it may provide a new call to the sense of responsibility which marked the revolutionary leaders of Virginia, and a reminder that government can be a noble calling. To the student it has become one of the outstanding places to study 18th-century America. To the archaeologist it offers a new wealth of data on the life of a colonial capital city in a plantation society. To the architect it is a unique professional experience. To many people its appeal is aesthetic and cultural. To the casual vacationist it is not only a delightful place, but at least a glimpse of something rarely seen — another era.

The voice of Colonial Williamsburg carries far — perhaps especially today — because at an historic time of trial, questioning, and danger it speaks of a deep faith in the rights of man, in liberty of the human spirit, in responsibility, in courage and devotion to duty. Here men can refresh their souls in every age: *That the Future May Learn from the Past.*

## *THE DIMENSIONS OF THE RESTORATION*

In retrospect it appears that Colonial Williamsburg was always a bigger vision than anyone realized. There was a time when it appeared possible that as much as \$5,000,000 might eventually have to be committed to the undertaking — yet much more than ten times that amount will be committed before the end is reached.

In the beginning it was supposed that people would come to the restored area, drink of its inspiration and then go away. Presently it was evident some might spend the night. The notion of accommodating them in the old inns and ordinaries seemed an attractive solution. But America's thirst for the inspiration of Williamsburg was greater than anyone knew. When in 1937 an inn with 61 rooms was built outside the historic area, there were misgivings. How could these rooms be filled? They were filled to overflowing. In fact, at the end of the first twenty-five years of the Restoration, the whole community could provide accommodations for the night for more than 2,000 people — and it was not enough. More than a quarter of a million people a year were going through the exhibition buildings, and the number continues to increase.

The physical dimensions of Colonial Williamsburg may be suggested by statistics. As of December 31, 1951:

82 colonial buildings, which still survived in whole or in part from the 18th century, had been restored to their original form.

341 buildings of which, very often, nothing but part of a foundation survived, to show their location, had been reconstructed.

616 modern buildings had been torn down or removed from the restored area to make room for gardens, greens, and the reconstructed buildings.

20 modern buildings had been removed from the restored area and a number of new structures built outside its limits, among them a school for 845 students, a court house, and a fire station.

From the beginning it was believed that Colonial Williamsburg's message to the modern American was at base a moral and spiritual message. Here — if the visitor were to rediscover for himself his own faith in courage, duty, the integrity of the individual, the high importance of honor — he must lose himself in a restoration of the spirit as well as of the flesh of this lost city. The work must, therefore, have its own inner integrity.

From this conviction arose a policy which was stated by one of the great architects early enlisted in this task in these words:

“Reverently to preserve every vestige of the old where it survives, preferably on its original site; where it does not, to exhaust first every vestige of evidence as to what the old was actually like; where this evidence does not suffice, to work scrupulously in the style of the very time and place, yet with artistic sensitiveness.”

No Sherlock Holmes seeking to deduce the character of a man from a cigar ash ever pursued more thoroughly and relentlessly all of the evidences which would reveal the character of the restored and reconstructed area of Colonial Williamsburg. From the foundations of the restored area, archaeologists sifted over 100 tons of artifacts giving indications of the life and customs of the 18th-century inhabitants of Williamsburg. From many sources in this country and abroad information was assembled by researchers

digging through archives and libraries, and probing old deeds and letters, old wills and inventories, and old insurance policies.

The amount of knowledge that had to be accumulated was immense. For the reconstruction of the Capitol alone, research workers compiled a volume of 184 pages. In the beginning, there was literally no bibliography. A few books of photographs and general views of the buildings were available, but none contained helpful details of the architecture or its accessories, such as hardware and paint colors, for example.

In addition to a study in Williamsburg itself, the whole Tidewater section was combed for information and precedents. Studies were made of house and building forms; chimney and foundation walls; roofs, and how the shingles were laid; the frames of walls, floors, and roofs; types of doors and transoms; window treatments; cornices and exterior wall coverings; the treatment of eaves at the gables; porches and steps; basement interiors; interior details including stairs, flooring, fireplaces and mantels, panelling, cornices and baseboards, closets; methods of putting interior parts together by mortising, tenons and pegs, and nails. Paint colors and the chemistry of 18th-century paint were painstakingly investigated. Detailed studies were made of hardware, how it was installed, and such things as the kinds of glass used in sashes.

One of the chief glories of the 18th-century architecture was its brickwork. The colonial masons tooled the joints so as to provide a play of light and shadow on the joints themselves and the adjacent edges of the bricks. Colonial masons were at great pains to get a mortar whose color would enhance the color of the brick. A great deal of study was given to the mortar used by early Williamsburg masons. Samples of 18th-century origin were chemically analyzed to determine exactly the ingredients used.

The brick in colonial buildings in Williamsburg varied considerably in size. Today 40 different sizes of brick are stocked to meet the Restoration needs. They are all larger than modern brick. Original bricks were selected from each building or its foundations and reproduced by ancient methods, using local clay. Size, color, and texture were reproduced with all possible accuracy. The chimneys in the Governor's Palace alone required 70,000 bricks.

The trails followed by the men and women who restored and reconstructed colonial Williamsburg led them far afield. In Canton, China, they found an old chandelier like those which once lighted the Governor's Palace. The original stone floor of the Chamber of the House of Burgesses was made from stone taken from a quarry in England — and the rebuilt floor comes from the same quarry.

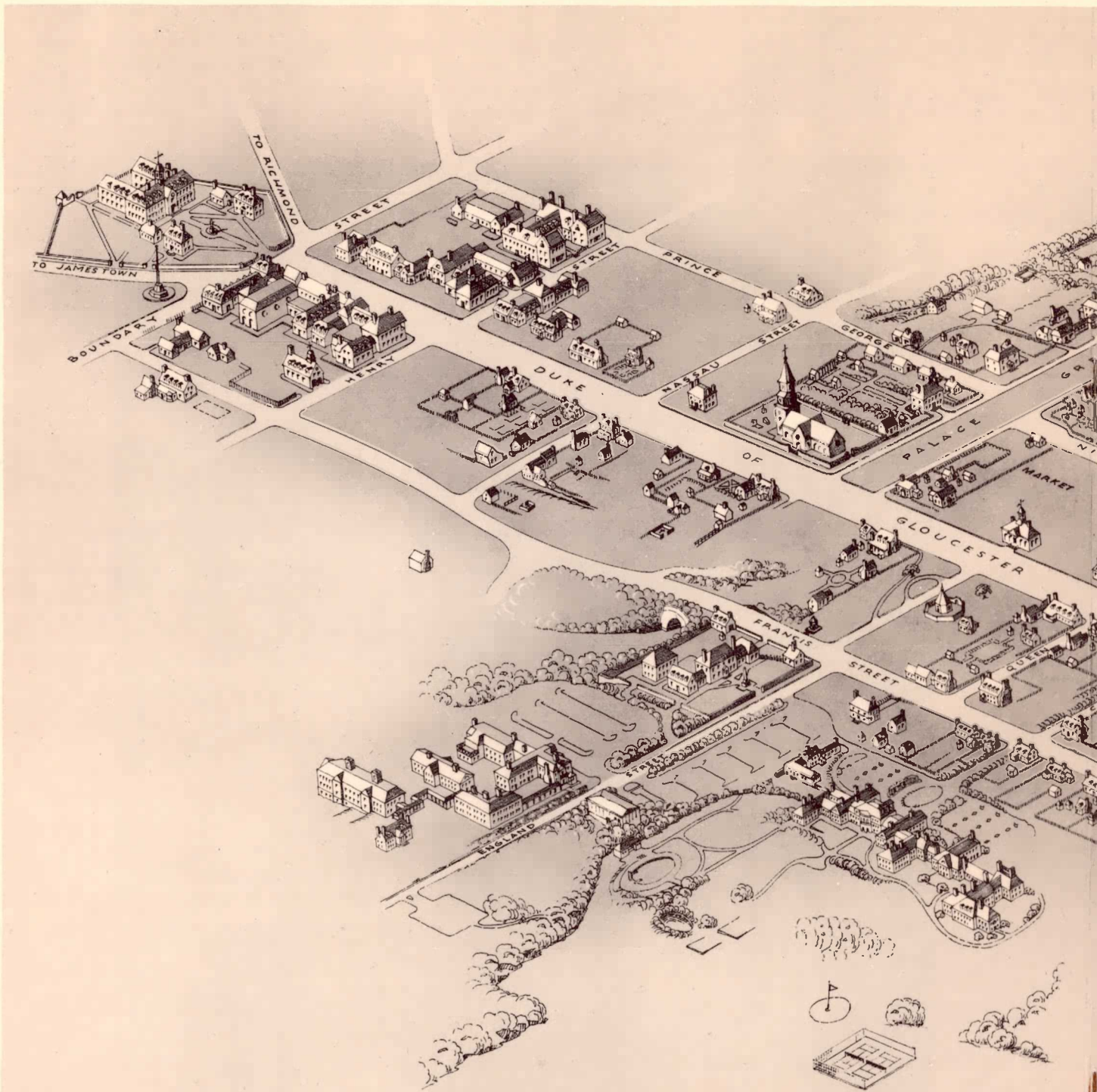
The amount of architectural work required under the strict conditions of authenticity has been estimated at two to three times the amount required in the design of a similar new building. The amount of construction work is estimated to be about three times that required to produce a similar new building. But only through such painstaking and costly fidelity to historical truth was it possible to re-create Williamsburg spiritually as well as physically.

Today we may report that every principal building, restored or reconstructed, looks substantially as it did in the 18th century. It is surrounded by gardens, walks, and fences, reflecting the correct design of the period. The whole Restoration is knit together by its 18th-century town plan. Some 475 acres of land have been acquired adjacent to the restored area to protect it from the jarring intrusion of the present. Furthermore, present-day Williamsburg is a city lived in — a city of lights and voices — a city of 18th-century

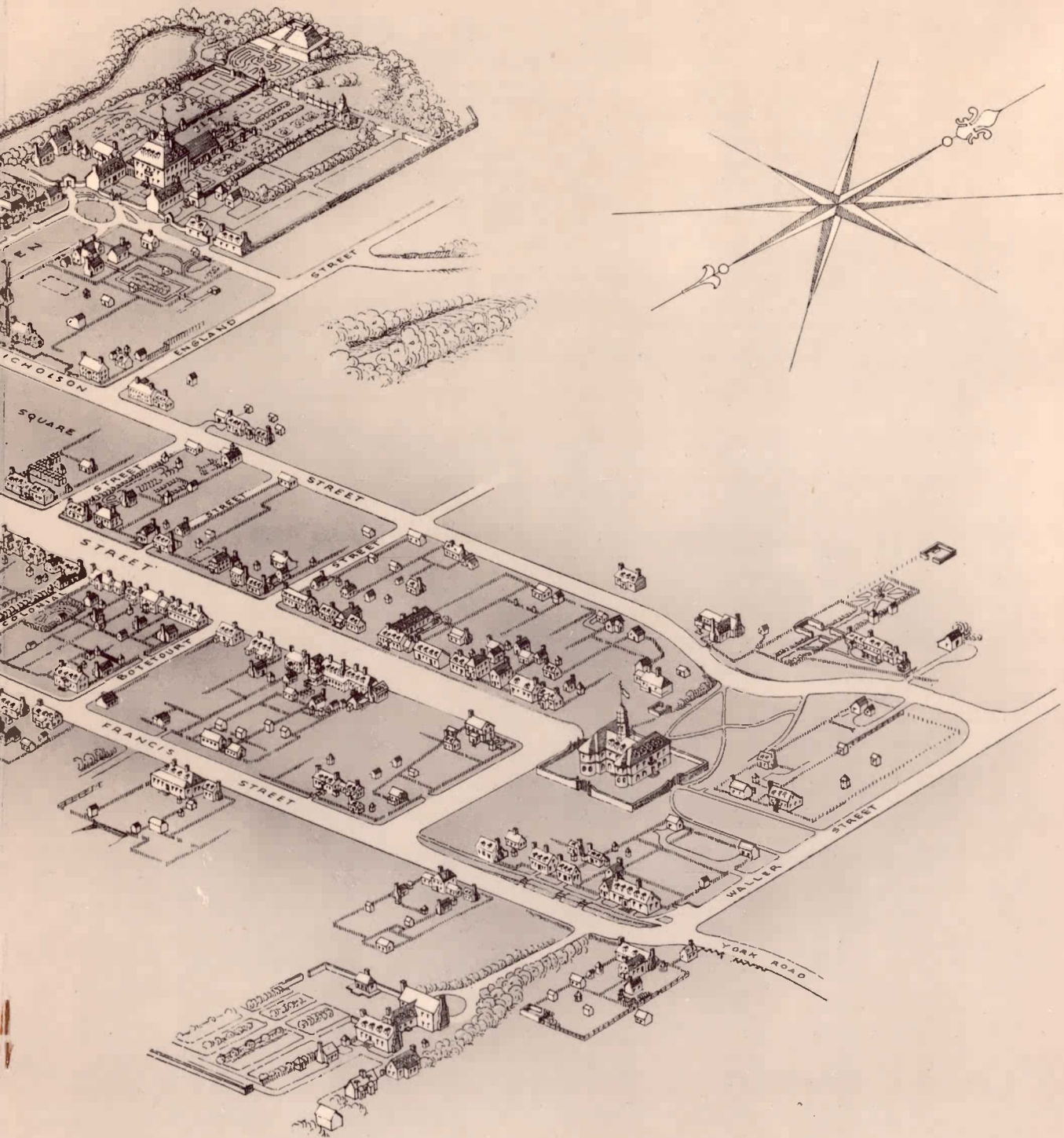


*SUPPER ROOM IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE*





*A View of Williamsburg*  
COLONIAL CAPITAL OF VIRGINIA



concerts and plays and Yuletide festivals — a city where old craft shops are still producing wigs, handwoven goods, printing, and other necessities.

Truly 18th-century Williamsburg has returned to life.

### *THE IMPACT OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG*

It is appropriate to ask at this point what, in fact, has been the impact of Colonial Williamsburg on 20th-century Americans during the first twenty-five years of its history. Six million people have visited Colonial Williamsburg. What has been its effect on them? How and to what extent has it been a teaching influence?

It is not easy to answer such questions. Because the answers are written in the hearts and minds of millions of people from all over the world who have experienced this restored and reconstructed city, we must base our estimates of its impact in large measure on their own testimony.

It would be possible to quote at length from distinguished visitors; from school teachers; from young people who have come from every state in the Union; from the educated and the uneducated; from housewives; from men and women who have come from foreign lands; and from refugees who have known the terrors of the lands which lie in the shadow of the Iron Curtain.

But one letter among the thousands which have come to us over the years says better than all the rest what appears to be the effect of Colonial Williamsburg. It was written in August, 1942, by Private R. Friedberg, Battery B, 12th Battalion, Fort Eustis, Virginia. Private Friedberg was one of the one hundred thousand soldiers who during World War II came to Williamsburg as the guests of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the late Mrs. Rocke-



*ONE OF EIGHT CRAFT SHOPS*

feller as part of a wartime orientation and training program conducted for the Armed Services. Writing to Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., after a visit, he said:

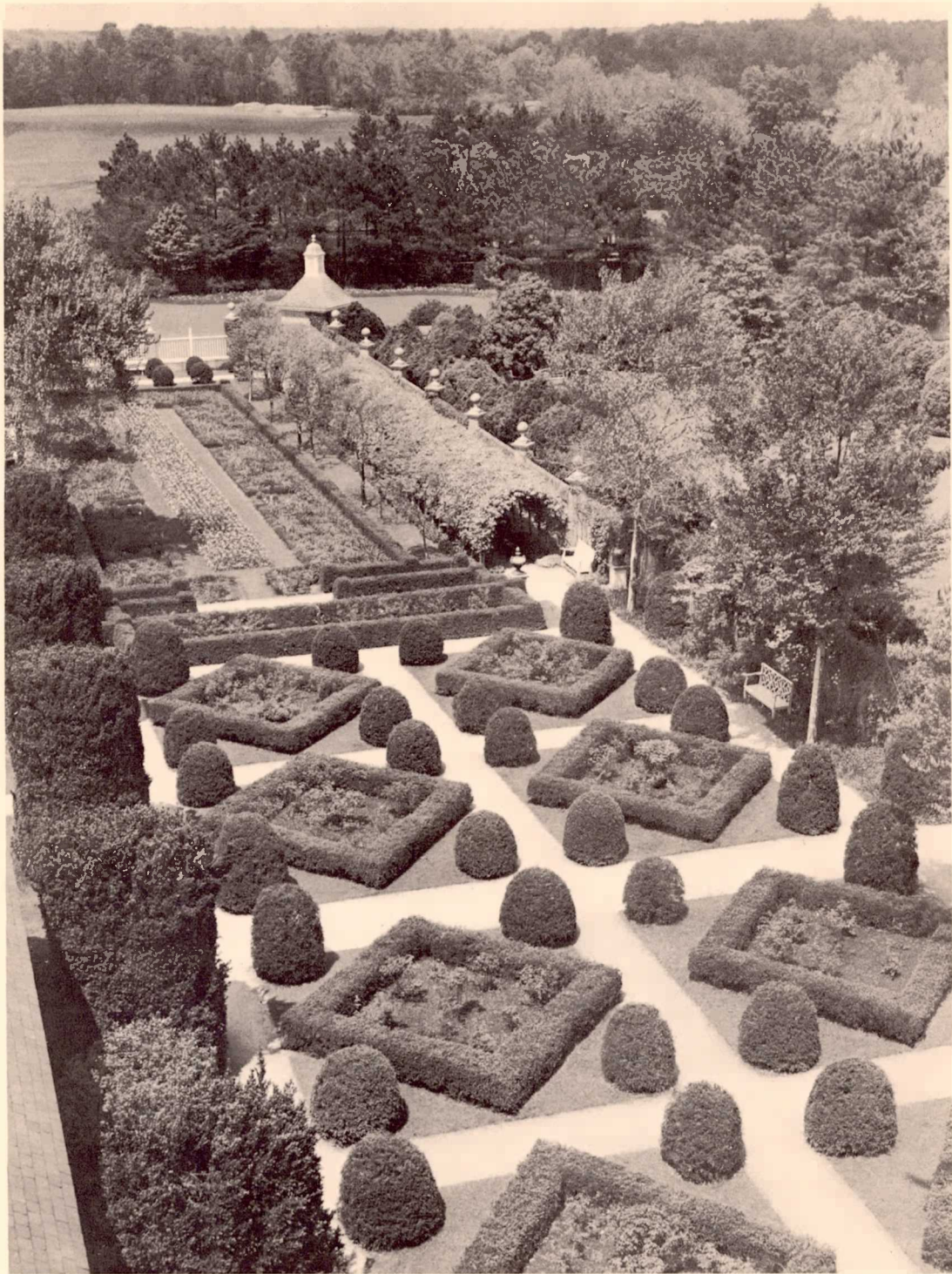
I want to thank you especially for the unique and wonderful way in which this visit made me realize the heritage and rich gifts of our country. Of all the sights I have seen, and the books I have read, and the speeches I have heard, none ever made me see the greatness of this country with more force and clearness than when I saw Williamsburg slumbering peacefully on its old foundations.

It was a rare pleasure indeed to be in the same church where Washington prayed; to be in the same chamber where Patrick Henry shouted 'If this be treason, make the most of it'; to be in the same classroom where Thomas Jefferson studied law, and in the same tavern where he danced with his fair Belinda. Never before or after in history have so many great men lived together at one time, and all their lives and works seemed to me to be mirrored in Williamsburg.

As a soldier in the United States Army, I am proud to have set foot on such grand old soil. More than ever it has made me live in the daily hope that by facing the future together, we shall all survive it together, both as a united nation and as free men.

Apart from its influence on the general public, Colonial Williamsburg has begun to have an influence in professional fields. It has, for example, become one of the world's foremost institutions for the study of the 18th century in America.

Colonial Williamsburg has gathered together a notable library and collection of 18th-century records relating to the history of Williamsburg and to Virginia colonial life. Because of the increasing volume of the accumulated historical materials, persons



*A PART OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE GARDENS*

with historical interests are more and more drawn here for research. Museum administrators, archivists, opera singers, film producers, genealogists, students from far and wide, and many other persons have used its research facilities.

It may be remembered that Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., early became interested in the restoration of the original yard of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and restored the Wren Building, "the oldest college building in America," the President's House, and the Brafferton Building, in co-operation with the College. There were from the beginning, therefore, a relationship and a mutuality of interest between Colonial Williamsburg and the College which have since been developed in various ways. Among the most important of these has been the joint establishment, in 1943, of The Institute of Early American History and Culture to fuse certain of the historical activities of the College of William and Mary and of Colonial Williamsburg. To this joint venture the College contributed *The William and Mary Quarterly* and the use of its library. Colonial Williamsburg transferred to The Institute responsibility for continuing its program of scholarly publication; also its program of research fellowships and the Virginia Gazette Index project. The Institute has aimed at reawakening a vital interest in the entire early period of American history; to encourage and assist writers and scholars in their research and publications; to help insure that appeals made daily to past "experience" are soundly based upon historical truth; and to contribute to the furtherance of democracy by a continuous examination of its origins here. The Institute has received guidance from a distinguished council of men interested in the field of early American history.

The example of Colonial Williamsburg has stimulated an interest in the preservation and restoration of many historic places

here and abroad. Many of these projects have turned to Colonial Williamsburg for professional advice.

## *BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL*

### CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Today all of the activities of Colonial Williamsburg are administered by two corporations, Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, and Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated. *Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated*, is a non-profit, non-stock, educational corporation administered by a Board of Trustees. It holds title to nearly all properties in the restored area, operates the exhibition buildings, including the Craft Shops, and is responsible for the Reception Center and all educational programs. *Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated*, is a business corporation whose activities include ownership and operation of the hotels and restaurants, Craft House and the Reproductions Program, and the Williamsburg Theatre; rental of properties; and the construction and maintenance of all buildings and grounds.

The various business operations of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, were undertaken in response to a variety of needs. It became evident almost at the outset that visitors to the Restoration would have to be accommodated. Out of this need came the hotel and restaurant program. The necessity for eliminating a diversity of business properties scattered through the city led also at the outset to the construction of a business area and motion picture theatre for general public use, adjacent to the restored areas. The Reproductions Program grew in response to a widespread public interest in the arts and decorations of 18th-century Williamsburg.



## SOURCE AND DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

The first properties purchased in Williamsburg were acquired in the name of Dr. Goodwin, or other individuals, with money furnished personally by Mr. Rockefeller, Jr. After it became publicly known in 1928 who was financing the Restoration, all the property previously acquired for Restoration purposes was transferred to the Williamsburg Holding Corporation, which was organized in 1928, and whose name was later changed to Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated. All of the stock of this corporation was originally owned by Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., and he advanced money to it for needs of the Restoration in exchange for notes of the Corporation representing such advances. In 1940, Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., gave Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, all of the stock and notes of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated.

Excluding funds used to meet operating losses prior to December 31, 1940, the following summary figures show the source and disposition of the combined funds of Colonial Williamsburg for the twenty-five years ending December 31, 1951:

### *Source*

Gifts from Mr. Rockefeller, Jr. . . . .	\$34,518,741.20
Payments from trusts established by Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., in 1935 . . . . .	8,351,074.32
Income from Colonial Williamsburg securities . . . . .	5,054,644.17
Gifts of securities from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, for special educational purposes, including income and profits from sales of securities . . . . .	533,188.00
	\$48,457,647.69

## *Disposition*

### FUNDS SPENT:

For construction, property purchase,  
other capital expenditures, operating  
losses, replacement of hotel furnishings  
and miscellaneous equipment . . . . . \$29,044,574.92

For projects financed from gifts for edu-  
cational purposes received from Mr.  
Rockefeller, 3rd . . . . . 233,824.96

### FUNDS ON HAND:

Insurance Reserve Funds . . . . . 250,000.00

General Capital Fund of Colonial  
Williamsburg, Incorporated, for further  
capital expenditures, replacements, and  
other corporate uses . . . . . 18,929,247.81

\$48,457,647.69

For list of securities in the General Capital Fund of Colonial  
Williamsburg, Incorporated, see following page.

The foregoing figures do not include a contribution of \$561,600.59 made by Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., to the College of William and Mary for the restoration of the Wren Building, the President's House, and the Brafferton Building; and a gift to the City of Williamsburg in the amount of \$519,789.03 to put underground all overhead wires and to repave the Duke of Gloucester Street.

### COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

By its activities, Colonial Williamsburg has brought a new way of life to modern Williamsburg. It has created for this county

# GENERAL CAPITAL FUND

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1951

<i>Face Value or Number of Shares</i>		<i>Maturity Date</i>	<i>Amortized Total Cost or Book Value</i>
\$125,000	USA Treasury Certificates—A, 1 7/8%	4/1/52	\$125,055.50
\$200,000	USA Tax Anticipation Bills	6/15/52	198,529.74
\$100,000	USA Treasury Certificates—B, 1 7/8%	7/1/52	100,000.00
\$300,000	USA Treasury Certificates—E, 1 7/8%	10/1/52	300,268.83
\$20,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	5/1/53	20,000.00
\$10,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	9/1/53	10,000.00
\$20,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	12/1/53	20,000.00
\$85,000	USA Treasury Bonds, 2%	9/15/53-51	84,629.97
\$50,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	1/1/54	50,000.00
\$960,300	USA Treasury Bonds, 2 1/2%	3/15/54-52	970,515.75
\$50,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	5/1/54	50,000.00
\$660,000	USA Treasury Bonds, 2%	12/15/54-52	661,187.93
\$100,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	4/1/55	100,000.00
\$100,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	7/1/56	100,000.00
\$100,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	1/1/57	100,000.00
\$100,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	1/1/58	100,000.00
\$15,000	USA Treasury Bonds, 2 1/2%	3/15/58-56	15,670.50
\$60,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	1/1/59	60,000.00
\$100,000	USA Savings Bonds—G, 2 1/2%	1/1/60	100,000.00
\$320,000	USA Treasury Bonds, 2 1/4%	6/15/62-59	314,410.23
\$428,000	USA Treasury Bonds, 2 1/2%	6/15/72-67	434,295.04
31,000	The Chase National Bank . . . . .		1,090,156.25
18,000	Consolidated Natural Gas Company . . . . .		495,937.50
61,400	Ohio Oil Company . . . . .		1,753,675.00
168,560	Socony-Vacuum Oil Company . . . . .		2,833,424.00
111,500	Standard Oil Company of California . . . . .		3,341,062.50
49,400	Standard Oil Company (Indiana) . . . . .		2,045,731.25
92,801	Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) . . . . .		3,119,369.65
	Accrued Interest Receivable . . . . .		19,917.55
	Cash . . . . .		315,410.62
			\$18,929,247.81

seat a whole new economy based more and more upon the accommodation of visitors. It has opened up new vistas of opportunity for many people.

It would be difficult — particularly for the President of Colonial Williamsburg — to make any unbiased estimate of the success or failure with which efforts to effect the changes in Williamsburg with the least possible strain have been crowned.

No community could undergo the transformation which occurred in Williamsburg without pain. Change — that most suspect of all inevitable eventualities — came in a very big way indeed. The quiet community of Williamsburg found itself suddenly the mother of a very large and strange duckling.

And yet it does seem possible that seldom has a change of such magnitude taken place in a community with greater good will and understanding. If so, it is a tribute to the good sense, hospitality, and faith of the people of Williamsburg.

A formal word of thanks is due here to the people of Williamsburg, their many wise leaders, and those political, business, patriotic, and intellectual leaders of the State of Virginia without whose help so much could not have been accomplished.

#### *AN APPRECIATION*

This is an appropriate place to remember that no idea, in the end, can be greater than the men and women who are associated with it and giving it reality. The position of Colonial Williamsburg today, therefore, is in itself a salute to those who have done and now do the work of the Restoration and its supporting operations. The Trustees and Directors wish me to express their own deeply felt appreciation for the devotion shown by the 1,300 men and

women who now comprise the staff and organization of Colonial Williamsburg. From the outset, Colonial Williamsburg has had the guidance and counsel of rare and exceptional people, beginning with its first President, Colonel Arthur Woods, who served from April 6, 1928, to October 11, 1935, when he became the first Chairman of the Board. It drew to itself such men devoted to the idea as William Graves Perry and his associates of the distinguished architectural firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn; Arthur A. Shurcliff, landscape architect; and many others.

But the Restoration owes many debts of gratitude to people all over the world.

To pay adequate tribute at the close of twenty-five years to the great numbers of people who have made contributions to the growth and development of this adventure in education is a wholly impossible undertaking. There have been far too many to record. Any adequate word of thanks must take into account not only the great acts of conspicuous generosity but those numberless smaller gifts which came from the heart and reflected an eager desire to help colonial Williamsburg live again in the 20th century. They are written in the hearts of the men and women who have had a part in bringing about the restoration of Williamsburg.

#### *A LOOK AHEAD*

The Restoration is a reminder that one of the greatest faiths of all the ages of civilized man is the faith we know today as democracy. The physical measure of American achievement is merely an evidence of the tremendous forces that come into existence when men and women are free to think, to speak, to do.

If the world is to become a better place, it will be because men



*WILLIAMSBURG INN*

respect themselves and one another — because the individual is believed to have unalienable rights derived from his Creator — because of the belief that people of the world everywhere will come in time to see and believe that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, that government is the servant — not the master — of the people.

Eighteenth-century Williamsburg was one of the important stages on which the American beginnings of the endless struggle for freedom, liberty, justice, and representative government were played for all the world to see. Nowhere else in colonial America was the faith on which our nation has been built more eloquently expressed. Man's struggle to rise through oppression and tyranny to liberty is eternal and will ever be "unfinished business." How may Colonial Williamsburg make its contribution to the growth and survival of the faith it represents? That is the question which we now — and all future stewards of the Restoration — must ask and try to answer.

Clearly, our first responsibility is to carry forward the still uncompleted work of restoration. As 1951 drew to a close, we could foresee another ten years of work and further capital outlays exceeding \$15,000,000. At December 31, 1951, there were 97 projects not yet completed. In 12 instances, reconstruction and restoration had to be deferred because we have been unable to acquire the properties. In 18 cases we could not proceed with restoration and reconstruction work until the expiration of the present life tenancies.\* In 15 cases they were blocked by what we consider to be inadequate information. In 24 cases restoration and recon-

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\* In a number of cases where residents wished to remain during their lifetimes in homes which Colonial Williamsburg wanted to acquire, such properties were purchased under agreements enabling the owners to live in them rent free for life.

struction work had been planned but not yet inaugurated. In 21 instances alterations were needed to complete a restoration or reconstruction. In 7 cases reconstruction and restoration work was in progress.

Among the larger projects in which we have a very great interest is a plan to reconstruct on its original site near the Governor's Palace the first theatre in colonial America. This is a complicated project — particularly with respect to 18th-century stage machinery, scenery, and stagecraft.

As the Restoration has progressed, we have had to face continually the problem of giving large numbers of people an opportunity of being alone with the 18th century and preventing the 20th century from intruding. As traffic has increased, this has become more and more a difficult problem. Yet, our aim must be to increase rather than to diminish the opportunity for people to lose themselves in the Restoration. How to isolate the restored area and yet permit visitors and residents to have the normal convenience of automobiles for transportation is a typical difficulty.

Colonial Williamsburg has developed a type of personal, guided tour of the exhibition buildings that has many advantages. As the number of visitors increases each year, we find ourselves pressed hard against a dilemma. One voice urges that more and more people be brought to Colonial Williamsburg, and we are now studying plans to expand the accommodations we can offer. Another voice, however, reminds us that only so many people daily can be guided through exhibition buildings under the best conditions. If the intimacy is lost, much may be lost with it.

Some years ago it had become apparent that visitors often could benefit from more information regarding colonial Williamsburg, its times, its culture, and its history. A temporary reception



center was built to help meet this need. We are now satisfied that the educational function of Colonial Williamsburg requires a more effective center through which the 20th-century mind may pass and be better prepared to hear the message of this 18th-century capital city of Virginia. The development of such a new reception center is one of the major objectives of the years ahead.

Again and again today we are asking ourselves:

“How can Colonial Williamsburg reach out to millions of people who may never have an opportunity to visit it?”

This is an area of activity which raises difficult problems. It is not easy to take Colonial Williamsburg to people, and, when we attempt to do so, we introduce to a larger extent the factor of “interpretation” — and many a truth has been damaged by its most devoted interpreters. We are exploring especially the techniques of eye and ear — including television — which offer the closest substitute for an actual encounter.

Finally, there is an area first described by John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, when he said: “Colonial Williamsburg must help make history today — not simply serve as a reminder of history.”

As we review the past — as we look ahead toward the future — as we recognize the far-reaching and unexplored opportunities which seem continually to present themselves — we are bound to recognize, I believe, that Colonial Williamsburg has in fact come alive. It has a force and direction of its own, quite apart from and above anything we as individuals may plan for it. We cannot truthfully say that the matter is entirely in our hands.

There is no doubt that Colonial Williamsburg is still a far bigger vision than any of us realizes.

KENNETH CHORLEY, *President*

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