

APPENDIX 2

Virginia Department of Historic Resources Data Sharing System

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) serves as the official state repository for information on historic resources. Information in the VDHR Data Sharing System (DSS) has been compiled primarily by independent consultants and volunteers.

Due to the fragile and irreplaceable nature of historic and archaeological sites, locational information on such properties may be exempted from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act under the Code of Virginia 2.2-3705.7 (10) and the National Historic Preservation Act. The user affirms that the information derived will not be used to the detriment of the resource and accepts responsibility to take reasonable precautions to ensure the security of site location information.

The DSS is comprised of Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) products with a web-based interface for data entry/review, attribute and geospatial query and report generation.

- Access to DSS application is by authentication of a username/password. Any user logging on should already have been approved by a duly authorized or licensed organization that has agreed to abide by the “DSS Use and Access Agreement”.
- The client side software required for DSS use is Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 5.5 and higher
- The URL to access the DSS is <http://www.hrdss.state.va.us>.

As of April 28, 2008, there are approximately 78,000 individually recorded architectural resources and 39,500 archaeological resources in the VDHR inventory. To VDHR’s knowledge, all resources that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Virginia Landmarks Register or those resources that have been evaluated and found to be potentially eligible for listing in the federal and/or state registers, have been recorded in the DSS. The boundaries of these resources have been updated and are in the Geographic Information System (GIS) component of the DSS. Utilizing the GIS, users can view sites superimposed on either 1:24,000-scale topographic maps or higher resolution Virginia Base Map Program (VBMP) imagery. This gives the user the advantage of seeing the geographic locations of sites within a research area, as well as to be able to view their distribution alongside other selected layers. A GIS containing cultural resource data gives Architectural Historians and Archaeologists the advantage of reducing the time it takes to perform contracted survey work and general research on any given area within the state. Archaeological site records in the VDHR inventory are comprehensive in the Data Sharing System (DSS) with records and attributes being reviewed and locations mapped. The DSS is not comprehensive at this time for historic architectural records in the VDHR inventory. Approximately 4,000 architectural records

**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
NORFOLK DISTRICT REGULATORY OFFICE,
ACHP, VDEQ, and VDHR on 07-SPGP-01
AND SECTION 106 OF THE NHPA**

have not yet been entered into the DSS and not all of the fields have been filled out within existing DSS records. Of the records entered in DSS, approximately 7,000 are not currently mapped. VDHR staff is making every effort to have all information currently on file entered and mapped in the DSS.

The absence of historic resources in VDHR records does not necessarily mean that historic properties are not present at a specific location. A large majority of the commonwealth has not been systematically surveyed for archaeological resources and existing architectural resource surveys are not considered to be comprehensive. VDHR makes no warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the data for any purposes.

Obtaining information on previously recorded historic properties does not constitute review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If a project is federally funded, licensed, or assisted, the federal agency may require you to obtain VDHR comment under Section 106. VDHR comment under Section 106 is a separate process and must be initiated through the VDHR Office of Review and Compliance.