



- 116th Annual Membership Meeting
- May 21, 2005
- 2005's Eleven Most Endangered Sites in Virginia

## Hayfield, Caroline County

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Hayfield is considered one of the last great unrestored antebellum mansions on the Rappahannock. The home was built circa 1750 by Lawrence Battaile on land that was part of a grant to John Battaile. The house was once known as “the finest in Caroline County” as recently as the 1970s when it began its unfortunate decline. The mansion and the surrounding site retain much of their original character as an agricultural setting on the banks of the Rappahannock. Several early 20th century outbuildings and the tree-lined drive to Rt. 17 are still intact. Hayfield also has strong associations with the Civil War including visits by Generals Lee and Jackson. The home itself is a close neighbor and contemporary of several National Register houses in Caroline County, including Moss Neck, Santee and Prospect Hill. Hayfield itself has never been placed on any historical register due in part to the fact that a mining company has owned it for over 30 years.



The massive Georgian brick house has been derelict for over 20 years, has suffered several bouts of vandalism, and is a prime example of “demolition by neglect.” Currently, Hayfield is part of a 350-acre farm owned by a sand and gravel mining company that holds a valid mining permit for the property. The mining company considers the sand and gravel under and around the house more valuable than the house itself and could begin operations to remove it at anytime.

## 2005's Eleven Most Endangered Sites in Virginia

Every year Virginia loses countless historic sites to inappropriate development and the ravages of time. Irreplaceable buildings, landscapes, bridges, towns, neighborhoods and even cities are in danger. APVA Preservation Virginia's listing of the "Most Endangered Sites in Virginia" focuses attention on the Commonwealth's most sensitive historic resources. Eleven sites were selected for the 2005 designation in this year's program.

What sets these sites apart is less their unique character than their capacity to represent so many other similar sites across the Commonwealth.

The designations for the 2005 "Most Endangered Sites in Virginia" are listed below by location.

## 2005's Eleven Most Endangered Sites in Virginia

**Hayfield, Caroline County**

**Longdale Furnace Iron Company, Clifton Forge**

**Worsham Street Bridge, Danville**

**Shenandoah Flood Plain/Richards Farm,  
Front Royal**

**Dr. Robert Walter Johnson Home & Tennis Court,  
Lynchburg**

**Pocahontas Company Store, Pocahontas**

**Adams, Payne & Gleaves Livery Stable #2, Roanoke**

**Virginia Tech/Catawba Hospital Farm, Roanoke**

**Windsor Castle and the Town of Smithfield, Smithfield**

**Town of Forestville & The Zirkle Mill, Forestville**