REPORT OF THE

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE STUDYING

THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF RED HILL

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THE GOVERNOR

AND

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



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REPORT OF THE JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE STUDYING THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF RED HILL

January 1981

Introduction

The Joint Subcommittee studying the continued viability of "Red Hill", Patrick Henry's home, was established by House Joint Resolution No. 314 of the 1981 General Assembly, and continued by House Joint Resolution No. 145 of the 1982 General Assembly.

Delegate Robert Ball of Henrico served as Chairman of the Subcommittee. Other members of the House of Delegates who served on the Subcommittee were Arthur R. "Pete" Giesen of Waynesboro, Joseph Johnson of Abingdon, Norman Sisisky of Petersburg and Robert Washington of Norfolk.

Senate members of the Subcommittee were Howard Anderson of Halifax, Dudley Emick of Fincastle and William Truban of Woodstock.

Work of the Subcommittee

The Subcommittee met on September 30, 1982 to review background on Red Hill and to discuss alternatives for future state support.

The Red Hill shrine is located in Brookneal, Virginia and was the last home and burial site of Patrick Henry.

The State assisted the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation in its purchase of Red Hill in 1945 and has participated in its operation since 1966 through annual state grants. The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation has requested that the State accept Red Hill as a gift to be operated under a regency form of management.

A meeting was held at Red Hill in November to discuss alternatives for state support with the Foundation Board of Directors and to investigate the potential for greater local involvement.

Recommendations

The Joint Subcommittee recognizes the historical significance of Red Hill and feels that it should be maintained as a memorial to one of Virginia's best-known patriots. At the same time, state government agencies are in the midst of a critical re-evaluation of their mission and priorities. The current initiative is not to increase the size of state government. For this reason, the Subcommittee does not recommend that a new state agency be established.

The location and nature of Red Hill's operation is compatible with the state park system within the Department of Conservation and Economic Development. Currently, there are six recreational facilities within the park system with historic significance.

The State is in the process of developing an endowment policy with regard to gifts of property accepted by the Commonwealth. The policy recommendation is to be completed by June 30, 1983.

The Subcommittee recommends that the Governor accept Red Hill as an addition to the state park system at the beginning of the 84-86 biennium if the transfer of property is accompanied by an endowment sufficient to generate income to offset the initial increased financial burden to the Commonwealth.

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