



Winter 2019

Northumberland Preservation Inc's (NPI) prime responsibility is maintaining two one-room schools, one constructed in 1884 and the other in 1906. After being moved to the site and stabilized in 2010, the 1884 school is awaiting a new floor. The 1906 school was renovated in the late 1980s and in 2006 with ongoing repairs. However, old buildings that are not used soon develop new age-related problems and can deteriorate quickly. The NPI Board committed itself to make the site more attractive to programs and general use. In 2016 a well was dug, allowing construction of a separate building to house a small kitchenette and a flush toilet. Lecture programs restarted in 2006 continue. Star gazing and social gatherings have increased but the site still needs improvements to fully live up to NPI's mission.



Activities underway to broaden use of the 1906 school and grounds include:

- The school needs to be a better venue for occasional lectures. A few light fixtures are to be added.
- A low level of heat in the school is also needed for mid fall and early spring events.
- In 2020 we plan to open the school to the general public from 10AM to 2PM on the

first Saturday of the month from May to October.

- Groups touring the school to learn about one-room rural education need to see the space as it might have been when students attended. Storage of program chairs and tables will be relocated to the adjacent all-purpose building.
- Hosting picnics for small to large groups will become easier as the kitchenette area in the all-purpose building is being enlarged by relocating the water storage tank.
- A toilet facility will remain open to the public from April thru October.
- The original door to the school probably disappeared when it was converted to a granary some 75 to 80 years ago. We continue our search for a door of appropriate vintage to replace the windowless doors. If anyone has suggestions, we would love to hear them.
- Just over the horizon is the need to replace the existing 1906 school roof either with a standing seam metal roof, similar to that currently on the 1884 school or with wooden shingles, the original roofing material.



Northumberland Preservation Inc. ("NPI") is a registered 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization for Historical Societies and Related Historical Activities. PO Box 65, Wicomico Church, VA 22579





Shiloh School Coastal Plain Native Plant Garden



The Shiloh school site also has two interconnected gardens with over 50 flowering native plant species. Settlers encountered these plants as they migrated to newfound homesteads in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Their blooms and colors would have been familiar to the students at either school.

The garden was designed to provide a display of flowers through three seasons of the year. The East Garden has an emphasis on pink shades while the West Garden has a tendency for blue flowers. The great majority of flowers are perennial, but a few annual species (Bidens and Brown Eyed Susans) are also included due to their ease of growth and beauty. Plant identification markers, donated by the Northern Neck Native Plant Society, are to be added in the spring of 2020.



The gardens are a magnet for butterflies, fritillaries and other pollinators. Last summer, during a butterfly count by master naturalists, the group reported Shiloh School's garden had by far the most butterflies as well as the largest number of species.

- In 2020 the garden will be advertised to garden clubs and other nature-oriented groups as another way to bring public attention to the site.

This is Where You Come In

Just as with our own homes and grounds, care of the Shiloh site takes constant attention, volunteer time and money. We welcome membership dues of \$35 per family, but we must raise more to keep ahead of the needs. Helping with a wide variety of jobs from basic building repair, painting and caulking, to weeding is an additional way to contribute. Financial contributions are tax deductible. To become a member and/or to make a contribution, please send a check to:

NPI, PO Box 65, Wicomico Church, VA 22579.
To volunteer, please call Jack or Susan Moore
(804) 580-8629 or (804) 580-0350.

NPI would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy & Safe Holidays !

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