



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Matt Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Julie V. Langan
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
www.dhr.virginia.gov

March 15, 2018

Dear Ms. Ladd,

I am pleased to send official notification that the Virginia Board of Historic Resources approved the Walnut Grove Plantation highway marker at its meeting on March 15, 2018. The final text is as follows:

Walnut Grove Plantation

Col. Robert Preston (1750-1833) acquired 720 acres here in the 1780s and established Walnut Grove. Preston had emigrated from Ireland in 1773 and worked as assistant surveyor under his relative William Preston, who laid out vast areas of western Virginia. During the Revolutionary War, Robert Preston joined expeditions against the Cherokee and Loyalists. Gov. Thomas Jefferson appointed him the first surveyor of Washington County in 1779. Preston's frame house, built here ca. 1800, is among the county's oldest. By the 1830s about 30 enslaved African Americans were laboring on his land. William Clark, of Lewis and Clark, breakfasted at the home of Preston's son John at Walnut Grove in 1809.

Soon I will contact Bristol Public Works to determine the shipping address for the marker. I will then authorize the foundry, Sewah Studios, to produce the marker. The foundry will ship the marker to the City, and employees there will install it. The foundry will bill the Bristol Historical Association directly (\$1,770 for the marker and \$175 for the post). The invoice will arrive around the time the marker is shipped.

In selecting a date for a marker dedication ceremony, please allow at least three months from the date the marker is ordered. I will let you know when the order has been placed. It generally takes at least two months for the sign to be manufactured and delivered, and we also need to leave time for installation.

The Department of Historic Resources will soon be issuing a press release about the markers approved at the March board meeting.

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

If you have any questions at this stage, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your interest in the highway marker program, and congratulations!

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Jennifer R. Loux, Ph.D.
Highway Marker Program Manager
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391