Chester, VA September 17 - October 27, 2017

PROJECT SPONSOR: Gary Williams

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Chester was constructed in 1773 in Sussex County, VA, as a plantation with a large two-story house. This initially served as the home of prominent early settlers in Virginia. Gary Williams, the current owner and project sponsor, is a direct descendant of the building’s original eighteenth century owners, the Harrisons.

Chester was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and remains as an example of a prodigious southside colonial farmhouse. Sussex county itself has maintained a predominantly agricultural economy, and Chester stands as a testament to the historic agricultural heritage of Sussex County. The building’s architectural value is further enhanced by the survival of nearly all its original interior woodwork. Students and field staff will work to restore the exterior of the farm building so that it reflects its original splendor.
**SCOPE OF WORK:** Students worked with HistoriCorps field staff to accomplish the following tasks:

- Remove loose mortar and re-point the chimneys
- Clean the building’s foundation
- Replace bricks to match existing in color, size, and density
- Remove and replace rotten, patched, and inappropriately repaired wood elements from porch columns and the balustrade

**WHERE:** Chester is located at 10447 Newville Road, Waverly, VA (map). Students will be camping at Chester.