

2021 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 547

Commending the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 18, 2021

Agreed to by the Senate, January 21, 2021

WHEREAS, the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House, one of the oldest structures in Richlands, is a valuable resource for education and tourism in Tazewell County and a model for preservation of similar historical sites throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, built in approximately 1890, the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House was the home of the section foreman who maintained the integrity of track conditions in the local section of the railway; and

WHEREAS, in May 2011, the Richlands Town Council empowered the Section House Restoration Committee to seek a grant from the Department of Transportation to assist with the restoration of the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House, and Norfolk Southern Railway donated the property to the town in the following July; and

WHEREAS, the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House received support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which provided a grant for a mural depicting local history, and from Southwest Virginia Community College, which funded public restrooms for visitors; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Richlands Garden Club has made significant contributions to the planning, planting, and upkeep of the grounds around the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House; and

WHEREAS, the restored Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House was dedicated on October 13, 2018; the site is currently listed on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House is included on the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail, which highlights the critical role the coal industry of Southwest Virginia played in the economic vitality of the Commonwealth and the growth of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House upholds the theme of its mission and vision statements, "the ties that bind," by continuing to provide opportunities for visitors to establish a personal connection to the region's heritage through historical exhibits and interpretation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House, an important historical landmark in Richlands; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Norfolk and Western Railway Section Foreman's House as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the significance of the site and the Richlands community's commitment to preserving the Commonwealth's historical and cultural resources.

ENROLLED

HJ547ER