Buckingham Slate is a black slate with a life expectancy of about 150 years, maybe more. It can be seen on structures such as the Smithsonian "Castle" in Washington DC.

—Slate Roof Central

A durable, very hard, unfading black slate continues to be produced in Buckingham County near Arvonia, Virginia. This historically significant roofing slate has a distinct glistening mica sheen. Slate from Buckingham County does not change color.

—National Slate Association Publication Slate Roofs

One of the few unfading slates. Fading in slate is an indication of disintegration, that weakens the roof and ruins the architectural ensemble. Buckingham Slate is UNFADING under all conditions.


The roof is constructed of “Buckingham Slate”, quarried from Buckingham County, Virginia and known for its long-lasting durability. Overall the roof is in excellent condition, a tribute to the durability of Buckingham County slate.

—National Preservation Society inspection results of The "Windsor and Brunswick Apartment" — an over 100 year old structure in Roanoke, Va.