

VLR 12/5/01  
NIR 11/27/02

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Spring Hill Farm DHR File #029-0035

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

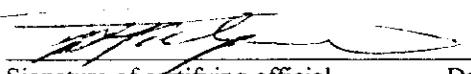
street & number 1121 Spring Hill Road not for publication NA

city or town McLean vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state Virginia code VA Fairfax

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date 12/9/02

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
- \_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- \_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- \_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/Federal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  stone \_\_\_\_\_  
roof  asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
walls  wood: weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other  brick \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agriculture \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1822-1904

Significant Dates 1822

1850

1872-1904

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Henry Alvord

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown for house and first barn

Henry Alvord and O.G. Besley for second barn

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Fairfax County Courthouse

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 25

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

1 18 307055 4312878    2 18 307174 4312902

3 18 307352 4313073    4 18 307412 4313232

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Catherine E. Livingston, Esq.

Organization: Caplin & Drysdale date September 2001

street & number: One Thomas Circle, N.W. telephone 202-862-5089

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Joan and Peter Andrews

street & number 1121 Spring Hill Road telephone 202-333-0753

city or town McLean state VA zip code 22102

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**7. Summary Description:**

Located in the McLean District of Fairfax County, Virginia, Spring Hill Farm preserves one of the region's earliest examples of a two-and-a-half story farmhouse. The region was once dotted with farmsteads with dwellings of this ilk, but it now is almost completely engulfed in suburban sprawl. The original core of the house was erected ca. 1822 and may incorporate fabric salvaged from an earlier dwelling on the site. In 1850, William Swink, Jr., then owner of Spring Hill, added the still-extant two-story wing on the rear (west side) of the house. At some time in the nineteenth century, an early attached kitchen was replaced when a two-story wing was added to the south end the original structure. Under the direction of the prominent preservation architect, Orin Bullock, the south wing was removed in 1972 and replaced by the present south wing. When the wing came off the outline of the former kitchen roof was revealed along with the southern side of an unusual double-sided fireplace. The fireplace opening was incorporated by Bullock in the new wing. Bullock removed a later double porch from the dwelling's east elevation and replaced it with a more architecturally appropriate small entry porch .

The house and its 1850 addition are of frame construction covered in weatherboards, and their foundations are of local fieldstone. The original interior woodwork is intact, including mantels, door and window trim, and staircase. On the grounds are two barns, one apparently built before the Civil War and one built in 1890. A replica of the original springhouse has been reconstructed on its original foundation. The four additional non-contributing buildings and structures on the property consist of a swimming pool, a pool house built in 1972, a garden tool shed and a guesthouse.

A winding drive leads to the house, which is at a distance from the road and is screened by a dense stand of trees. Near the barn is one of the oldest and largest black oak trees the United States, believed to be over three hundred years old. Bull Neck Run crosses the property in a wooded ravine to the east of the house. It is supplemented by multiple springs and two ponds. The old roadbed from the original alignment of Old Falls Road is still clearly visible crossing the property to the north of the house. The property's rolling topography, with its pastures and trees, preserves the feeling of the place as a working farm and strongly contrasts with the surrounding suburban development .

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The primary residential structure is a handsome two-and-a-half-story Federal vernacular farmhouse. Although long believed to be of eighteenth-century origin the house most probably was erected in 1822, apparently incorporating structural elements salvaged from an earlier building on the property. The 1822 date notwithstanding, the structure is an unusually early example of a two-and-a-half-story residence for western Fairfax County.<sup>1</sup> Among surviving properties in that area of the county, only nearby Ash Grove, built by the Fairfax family c. 1800, is of comparable scale. Most farm dwellings built in Fairfax County during the early Republic era were either simple one-and-a-half-story buildings or log cabins. The 1822 property tax records reveal a substantial addition to the value of the property because of "a new residence." In floor plan, the original ca. 1822 structure includes a center stair passage with a room on either side, a finished attic of two rooms reached through a separate enclosed stair from the second-floor hall. In 1850, when William Swink, Jr. owned the house, the property tax records again show a notable increase in value. The increase is most likely attributable to the addition of a wing on the back (west side) of the house that included a main room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor.<sup>2</sup> Underlying both sections is a basement. The joists supporting the earlier section are of hand dressed lumber while the joists under the floor of the addition are only partially dressed.

An 1872 inventory of Daniel W. Alvord, who had purchased the house in 1869 from William Swink, Jr. indicates how rooms were used. The first floor included a central hall, a parlor, a dining room, and an office/library while the second floor included three bedchambers. An ell, off the dining room on the first floor, included a bedchamber and a kitchen with cooking stove. The attic appears to have been finished second-story living space throughout the nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> The ell or south wing may have been replaced at least once before the 1972 work by Orin Bullock, a nationally recognized preservation architect and author of The Restoration Manual, a seminal text on historic preservation. Bullock also replaced an existing large two-level front (east) porch, probably added ca. 1900, with a smaller porch similar to the porch at Ash Grove.<sup>4</sup>

The interior woodwork is the most distinctive feature of the house. Handled with restraint, door surrounds, doors, window frames, and mantels are handsome examples of local craftsmanship. First-floor mantels feature reeded columnar pilasters, friezes with central tablets, and molded shelves, while simpler mantels are found in the front two second-floor bedrooms. The two mantels found in the c. 1850 addition are decorated with a bull's-eye motif that is also

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found at the corner blocks of the door and window surrounds of both the library and the bedroom above. The staircase in the center passagel features a simple turned newel, molded handrail, and thin, square balusters, and is characteristic of the country Federal style of the area. In addition, much of the window and glass appears to be original.

The property includes two barns. The first, of post-and-beam construction, probably dates from the antebellum period. Henry E. Alvord designed the second barn in 1890, and oversaw its construction by his sister Caroline's son-in-law, O. G. Besley. Though relatively small, the barn is outfitted with a system of stalls, lofts, and feed chutes. It was a model for its time and represents the ideas of its dairy scientist owner, Alvord. Although living elsewhere until the mid-1890s, the Alvords continued to maintain close supervision of their property.

The inventories of William Swink, Sr. and his widow Mary Swink in the mid-1820s document grain farming at Spring Hill and probably an orchard, and dairy farming. At the time of his death, Swink owned seven slaves. In addition to dairy cattle, horses, and sheep, the inventories reveal large stocks of different grains and cider. The William Swink, Sr. inventory also included a wagon, horses, a harrow, shovel plows, and blacksmith tools.<sup>5</sup>

The D. W. Alvord Inventory of 1872 suggests more emphasis on dairy farming with a bull and twenty-one cows plus three horses and small numbers of sheep and pigs. Alvord also owned a wagon, a gig, a horse rake, seven plows, a harrow, a cultivator, a seed sower (Holbrook's) and a broadcast sower (Cahoon's), along with a variety of smaller tools.<sup>6</sup> This set the stage for dairy farming by Henry E. Alvord.

Spring Hill Farm, through the buildings, the landscape, and the historic records, show the evolution from the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century to the twentieth century of a Fairfax County up-river plantation

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<sup>1</sup> County Commissioner George Millane's Land Tax Book, 1822

<sup>2</sup> County Commissioner Robert Ratcliff's Land Tax Book, 1850.

<sup>3</sup> Conversation with Don Beyer Jr. on Aug. 29, 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Ash Grove and the Ash Grove porch are illustrated in the Sherman Papers, Fairfax County Park Authority.

<sup>5</sup> William Swink and Mary Swink Inventories, Fairfax County Will Book O, 325-327.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel W. Alvord Inventory, Fairfax County Will Book B-2, 287.

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**Summary Statement of Significance**

Spring Hill Farm is historically significant in three respects. First, it is one of the largest surviving examples in Fairfax County of an early-nineteenth-century farmhouse with architectural elements that suggest the eighteenth century situated on a sizeable plot of land that retains its original agricultural character. Second, the two-and-a-half-story residence is among the earliest examples of a substantial dwelling type built in western Fairfax, still fitted with its original woodwork and period construction features. Two examples of historic nineteenth-century barns, rare survivors for the area, also remain on the property. Third, owners of the property and of the house have had significant roles in the history of Fairfax County, of Virginia, and of the United States. These include the Fairfax family, the Scott and Alexander families, the Swink family, and the Alvord family.

Spring Hill Farm is eligible under Criterion C for Architecture as a good example of an early Federal-period farmhouse and under Criterion B for its association with Henry Alvord, the first dairy division chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Historical Background**

Early ownership

The earliest title to the land by Europeans is as a part of the grant by Charles II of England to the Fairfax family in 1666. Charles II had first granted the property to his supporters in Virginia in 1649 with confirmation of title to the land finally confirmed in 1669.<sup>7</sup> The Fairfax family had an important part in the life of northern Virginia into the nineteenth century as landowners, as clergy, and as entrepreneurs.

In 1742, two Virginians received adjacent patents from the Fairfax family to land that, in part, eventually became Spring Hill Farm. The Reverend Alexander Scott, rector of Dipple Parish in Stafford County, held one patent that descended among his heirs until 1808. Robert Alexander, Fairfax County merchant, received a neighboring patent.<sup>8</sup> The Alexander family owned much of the land that became the city of Alexandria, named for them in 1749. For another generation, both properties were part of the Virginia frontier, and do not seem to have been used. Eventually, the properties appear to have been rented out in small parcels by the absentee landlords, a pattern typical of the northern Virginia frontier during the last third of the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth

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century. Tax records indicate that some small farming and livestock operations were on the land by the end of the eighteenth century.

Acquisition and Ownership by the Swink Family

In 1808, William Swink, Sr. purchased a part of the Scott tract from the firm of Caldwell and Rankin, acting as trustees for the heirs of John Scott, having acquired the title a year earlier.<sup>9</sup> Swink, a Pennsylvanian, had arrived in Fairfax County by 1785 to take advantage of the new frontier.<sup>10</sup> He rented property in the county, first purchasing twenty-one acres in 1803.<sup>11</sup> This may have been close to Spring Hill. In 1808, he acquired 163 and one-half acres from Caldwell and Rankin, a part of what became Spring Hill Farm.<sup>12</sup> By the time of the purchase of the land, the Swinks also acquired several slaves, placing them among the middling gentry of the area. Until the Civil War, the family owned five to seven slaves to work with occasional hired free workers and family members.<sup>13</sup> The Swinks apparently built the current house about 1822, the year the land tax record notes the addition of a substantial residence.<sup>14</sup> When the Swink estate was inventoried in 1826 after the death of Swink's widow, the combined estates had a value of \$2,932.50 in personal property, not counting the land and house valued at \$2,489.52.<sup>15</sup> The property included slaves, household furnishings, farm equipment, and farm produce.

Meanwhile, in 1806, Charles Alexander, an Alexandria merchant and attorney, died leaving a nuncupative will. He had received the land from his father Robert Alexander. His son, William Brown Alexander, inherited the patent, keeping title to it throughout his life. By 1819, when settlement of the Charles Alexander estate finally occurred, William Swink, Sr. rented the Alexander property.<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, the William Brown Alexander family moved to Missouri. After his death in 1846, his heirs sold 160 Acres to William Swink, Jr., son of William Swink, in 1847.<sup>17</sup> At that time, the Swinks owned approximately 344 acres at the Spring Hill Farm site. In 1850, the land tax records reveal an addition to the house.<sup>18</sup> Swink disposed of parts of the property around the perimeter after 1850.

William Swink, Jr. served in the War of 1812 and, in 1850 was a member of the School Commission.<sup>19</sup> By 1860, only Swink's daughter, Martha Scott Swink, remained at home.<sup>20</sup> A year later, Swink voted for Virginia's secession from the Union, although he was unable to fight.<sup>21</sup> Family legend suggests that John Singleton Mosby, the Confederate partisan leader, used the farm as a hideout on at least one occasion.<sup>22</sup> After the end of the Civil War, the Swinks'

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daughter, Martha, married Henry Elijah Alvord, an officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry in 1866. Family legend has it that she met him when he and other Union soldiers came to the farm looking for Mosby. In 1869, Alvord's father, Daniel W. Alvord, purchased the farm, then 223 acres, for \$10,000.<sup>23</sup> The Swinks moved to the nearby town of Lewinville, living there until their deaths in 1876.<sup>24</sup>

Acquisition by the Alvord Family

Daniel Wells Alvord, a retired attorney and politician from Greenfield in Franklin County, Massachusetts, was born Oct. 21, 1816. Alvord had a successful career as an attorney and political office holder. A graduate of Union College in 1838 and Cambridge Law School, Alvord served in the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1853 and the Massachusetts State Senate in 1854. From 1856 to 1863, he was district attorney for the Massachusetts N.W. Judicial District and from 1864 to 1869, the collector of internal revenue for the 9<sup>th</sup> District of Massachusetts.<sup>25</sup> In 1843, he married Caroline Matilda Clapp. They had two children, Henry Elijah Alvord and Caroline Matilda Clapp Alvord, before his wife died of complications in childbirth at the time of their daughter's birth in 1846. Marrying another Caroline, with whom he eventually had four sons, he moved with his family to Virginia in 1869.<sup>26</sup>

Alvord apparently came to Fairfax County in 1869 because his son Henry and his daughter Caroline Matilda Clapp Alvord Sherman lived in the area. His daughter settled in Fairfax in 1866 to teach at the Colored School at Freedom Hill. She was married on September 13, 1867 to Franklin Sherman of Ash Grove, who had served in the Union Army.<sup>27</sup> On Sept. 6, 1866, Henry Elijah Alvord married Martha Scott Swink, the daughter of William and Margaret Swink.<sup>28</sup>

Daniel W. Alvord developed the property as a dairy farm, but he died on August 3, 1871, leaving his widow with four boys as well as the two older children.<sup>29</sup> He had written his will in 1868 before leaving Greenfield, making his son, Henry Elijah Alvord, his executor. Daniel W. Alvord had been careful with money in life and, in his instructions, made it clear he expected his heirs to continue his practices.<sup>30</sup> His estate, in real and personal property, amounted to approximately \$12,000, but the will includes references to substantial investments not inventoried.<sup>31</sup> The heirs continued paying on the note to William Swink, but they put the property up for sale.<sup>32</sup> Henry E. Alvord, son and executor, bought the property for \$10,000 although it had been valued at \$9,000 in

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the inventory.<sup>33</sup>

Henry Elijah Alvord Ownership

The son who purchased the 223-acre farm from his father's estate had established a distinguished record of service that he would continue over a life that took him many places, but always led back to Spring Hill. Born in Greenfield, Massachusetts March 11, 1844, he received a basic education in his town before matriculating at Norwich University in 1860, seeking a practical rather than a classical education. During the Civil War, he first joined a cavalry unit of students from Norwich and Dartmouth Universities that was established by the Governor of Rhode Island in 1862. He fought in the Peninsula Campaign as a sergeant before returning to Norwich and graduating in 1863 with a B.S. in engineering. Later, he served on Norwich's board of trustees and, in 1899 received an honorary LLD. He returned to the war as an officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Cavalry, and campaigned in the Valley of Virginia, northern Virginia, and around Richmond with some service in Fairfax County, where he was stationed near modern-day Tyson's Corners.<sup>34</sup> He may well have met Martha S. Swink during that time. After the war, he served the Freedmen's Bureau in South Carolina and Virginia before marriage to Martha Swink. In 1867, he joined the newly organized 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, one of the first African-American regiments, and served as a lieutenant. Stationed in the Oklahoma Territory, he worked with reservation Indians to teach them how to manage cattle, but this led to a confrontation with George Armstrong Custer in 1869. That fall, he received an assignment as instructor in military tactics at the Massachusetts Agricultural College [now the University of Massachusetts], one of the first land grant schools. He retired from the army as a major in 1871. At the same time, he began to develop his interests in dairy farming.<sup>35</sup>

Spring Hill Farm offered an opportunity for Henry Alvord to put theories into practice, for he used the farm to build a herd of Jersey dairy cattle that provided milk for the markets of Georgetown, Washington, D.C., and Alexandria. He returned to the academic life quickly. After teaching agriculture at Williston Seminary in East Hampton, he returned to Massachusetts Agricultural College as professor of agriculture in 1880. In 1887, with a choice of several positions, he became president of Maryland Agricultural College [now the University of Maryland] serving in that position until 1892. He briefly served as the interim president of the Oklahoma Agricultural College, before moving to the New Hampshire Agricultural College. Meanwhile, he had been a leader in the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Agricultural Stations, becoming president in 1894, and

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helped draft the second Morrill Act in 1890, as well as the Hatch Act. He continued to manage Spring Hill Farm from a distance with occasional visits.<sup>36</sup> In 1890, he supervised O. G. Besley, a relation through his sister's family, who built a new dairy barn at Spring Hill.<sup>37</sup>

In 1895, when the U. S. Department of Agriculture organized a dairy division, he became its first division chief. Meanwhile, he wrote about dairy science for publications both in the United States and abroad, receiving international recognition in many scientific societies. In 1901, he served as a judge for the dairy exhibits at the Paris World's Fair. In 1904, he judged the dairy exhibits at the St. Louis World's Fair, but suffered a stroke while at the fair and died in St. Louis on October 1, 1904. During his life, he gained great esteem as a college professor, college president, and international expert in dairy science.<sup>38</sup>

With no children, Henry Alvord left the farm to his widow, Martha Swink Alvord. In addition, he made a number of personal bequests to his sister, his half-brothers, and other relatives in both the Sherman and Swink families. He bequeathed his agricultural library and collections, as well as an endowment for a scholarship in dairy science to Massachusetts Agricultural College. The farm remained intact at 223 acres.<sup>39</sup>

#### Subsequent History

Martha S. Alvord lived at Spring Hill Farm for much of the rest of her life.<sup>40</sup> She remained close to both her husband's family and her own family, serving as executrix for her father's will in 1876.<sup>41</sup> In her own will, she provided for a tombstone commemorating her parents, as well as many personal bequests to both families.<sup>42</sup> Spring Hill Farm passed to her great-nephew, John Van Dyke, virtually intact, but he apparently began to break up the 223-acre farm within a few years. The Don Beyer family acquired the part of the property with the house in the 1920s, owning it until the late 1940s. Don Beyer III, lieutenant governor of Virginia from 1989 to 1997, spent part of his childhood at the farm.<sup>43</sup>

In 1971, the Peter Andrews family acquired 14 acres of the property from Peter Woods who had purchased it from John Jay Islin. Andrews later bought an additional eleven acres from Don Beyer, Jr., making a total now of 25 acres. In 1972, the Andrewses employed the distinguished preservation architect Orin Bullock, author of The Restoration Manual, to restore the structure. Bullock removed a front porch, replacing it with a smaller porch resembling the one at nearby Ash

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Grove, and replaced an existing wing adjacent to the dining room with a larger structure, as well as modifying other porches. Over the years, while maintaining existing structures including two barns, the Andrewses have also maintained the existing landscape.

The present farm contains the largest of eight species of trees in Fairfax County, including a black oak that is more than 300 years old. There are two small waterfalls in Bull Neck Run, which traverses the property. The Andrewses reconstructed a springhouse on the foundations of an earlier springhouse that appears to have served the original dwelling and was destroyed by vandals in the 1950s. Richard Beyer, a sculptor, drew a sketch of the springhouse from his memory of growing up on the farm. Many relics from the Civil War era, including old-fashioned bottle shards and a cannon ball, have been found on the property.

Mrs. Donald Beyer, Sr., now deceased, owned and occupied the land for close to thirty years, beginning in the 1920s. According to Mrs. Beyer, there is a place under the eaves of the third floor where Confederate General John S. Mosby is supposed to have hidden. She also believed that the fireplace mantels in the house were carved by the same man who carved the mantels at Mount Vernon and that George Washington stayed at the farm many times since one of the main roads north from Alexandria ran through the farm. The gully where the road ran is still plainly visible today, dividing the first and second pastures. That section of Old Falls Road was diverted and closed many years ago.

While it is no longer a working farm, Spring Hill Farm is an island of preserved rural land in the midst of the Washington suburbs, and maintains the character of a rapidly disappearing historic landscape that once characterized western Fairfax County, Virginia.

### Endnotes for Section 8

<sup>7</sup>Richard L. Morton, Colonial Virginia (2 Vol.), I, 208; II, 545.

<sup>8</sup>Beth Mitchell, Beginning at White Oak, 111-112.

<sup>9</sup>Deed, John Scott Estate to Caldwell and Rankin, Fairfax County Deed Book E-2, 400-404; Deed, Caldwell and Rankin to William Swink, Fairfax County Deed Book J-2, 25.

<sup>10</sup>The earliest reference to Swink is his loss of a horse in 1785 revealing he lived three miles from the old courthouse, Alexandria Gazette, Feb. 3, 1785, 5; U.S. Manuscript Census, Virginia, 17.

<sup>11</sup>Commissioner George Minor's Fairfax County Land Tax Book, 1803.

<sup>12</sup>Commissioner George Minor's Fairfax County Land Tax Book, 1809. (The 1808 Book does not survive.) Fairfax County Deed Book J-2, 25.

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Endnotes for Section 8

<sup>13</sup>Fairfax County Personal Property Tax Books, 1790 to 1850; U.S. Manuscript Census Records, 1790, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870. U. S. Manuscript Slave Census Records, 1850, 1860.

<sup>14</sup>Commissioner George Millane's Fairfax County Land Tax Book, 1822. The value of the property increased from \$1860 in 1821 to \$2089 in 1822 with the notation of new construction.

<sup>15</sup>Inventories of William Swink and Mary Swink, Fairfax County Will Book O, 325-327; Robert Ratcliff Land Tax Book, 1826,

<sup>16</sup>Wesley E. Pippinger, John Alexander, 143-144.

<sup>17</sup>County Commissioner Robert Ratcliff's Fairfax County Real Estate Tax Book, 1847; George C. Alexander, executor of William B. Alexander to William Swink II, Fairfax County Deed Book L-3, 121-122. Although tax records indicate that Swink began paying property taxes on the land in 1847, the final recording of the deed did not occur until 1850.

<sup>18</sup>County Commissioner Robert Ratcliff's County Land Tax Book, 1850.

<sup>19</sup>Edith Sprouse, Fairfax County in 1860 (7 Vol.), Vol. V, 1900-1901.

<sup>20</sup>U. S. Manuscript Census for Virginia, 1860, 992. Swink was 72 years old, his wife Margaret was 62, and his daughter Martha was 26. The Swinks had at least three other children (a son and two daughters).

<sup>21</sup>Sprouse, V, 1901.

<sup>22</sup>No reference to the Swink family appears in any history of Mosby's command.

<sup>23</sup>William and Margaret Swink to D. W. Alvord, Fairfax County Deed Book K-4, 490-492.

<sup>24</sup>Sprouse, V, 1901.

<sup>25</sup>Alvord Family Genealogy Prepared by Caroline Matilda Clapp Alvord Sherman, Sherman Papers, Fairfax County Park Authority.

<sup>26</sup>U.S. Manuscript Census, Virginia, 392. The youngest son, Clarence W. Alvord, became a distinguished historian of the eighteenth century Mississippi Valley, helping to establish the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, now the Organization of American Historians.

<sup>27</sup>"The Sherman Family in Fairfax County," Sherman Collection, Fairfax County Park Authority.

<sup>28</sup>Sprouse, V, 1901.

<sup>29</sup>Sherman Genealogy, Fairfax County Park Authority.

<sup>30</sup>Daniel W. Alvord Will, Fairfax County Will Book B-2, 19-21.

<sup>31</sup>Daniel W. Alvord Inventory, Fairfax County Will Book B-2, 287

<sup>32</sup>Estate Account, Daniel W. Alvord, Fairfax County Will Book B-2, 342; Fairfax News, Mar. 7, 1873, 3.

<sup>33</sup>Alvord Inventory, Fairfax County Will Book B-2, 287; Caroline Alvord to Henry E. Alvord, Deed of Sale, Fairfax County Will Book C-2, 64-65.

<sup>34</sup>"2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Massachusetts Cavalry," in U.S. National Park Service Civil War Web Site.

<sup>35</sup>Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. I, 238; USDA Annual Report, 1904, 41-43; Philip Reed Rulon, "Henry Elijah Alvord: Soldier, Scientist, Scholar," Chronicles of Oklahoma, #1, 63-76.

<sup>36</sup>Ibid.

<sup>37</sup>O. G. Besley to Henry Alvord, Dec. 17, 1890, Manning Gasch Collection, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library.

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Spring Hill Farm  
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Endnotes for Section 8, continued

<sup>38</sup> Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. I, 238; USDA Annual Report, 1904, 41-43; Philip Reed Rulon, "Henry Elijah Alvord: Soldier, Scientist, Scholar," Chronicles of Oklahoma, #1, 63-76.

<sup>39</sup> Henry E. Alvord Will, Fairfax County Superior Court Will Book 3, 16-20.

<sup>40</sup> Fairfax Herald, April 30, 1909, 3; Fairfax Herald, Nov. 5, 1909, 2.

<sup>41</sup> William Swink II Will, Fairfax County Will Book C-2, 402.

<sup>42</sup> Martha Swink Will, Fairfax County Superior Court Will Book 5, 356-358.

<sup>43</sup> Conversation with Don Beyer Jr., August 29, 2001.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Spring Hill Farm  
Fairfax County, VA**

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**Major Bibliographical References**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Obituary of Henry Elijah Alvord," Annual Report: 1904, 41-43.

**Other Sources**

**Additional Alvord family papers, including the Henry E. Alvord Collection at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the Clarence W. Alvord Papers at the University of Missouri.**

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**Spring Hill Farm  
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**Geographical Data**

**UTM References, continued**

Zone	Easting	Northing
5 18	307065	4313436
6 18	306925	4313103

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is identified as parcel number 020-4-01-0076-A on the tax parcel maps for Fairfax County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property reflect the entire property owned by the current owners. The approximately 25 acres being nominated are what remains of what was once a much larger working farm.



Spring Hill Farm  
Fairfax Co., VA.

Zone 18

	Easting	Northing
1)	307055	4312878
2)	307174	4312902
3)	307352	4313073
4)	307412	4313232
5)	307065	4313436
6)	306925	4313103

5561 IV NE  
LEESBURG 21 MI.  
(VIENNA)  
DRANESVILLE 7 MI.