

VLR 3/7/7  
NRHP 5/8/7

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 Fort Colvin  
other names/site number Covill's Fort; Joseph Colvin House; VDHR File #034-0026 and 44FK592

2. Location

street & number 104 Stonebrook Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Winchester vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Frederick code 069 Zip code 22602

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

McGowan Slusser 3/23/2007  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title 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. Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
d e t e r m i n e d not eligible for the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. Classification

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   N/A  

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### 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Domestic   Sub:   Single Dwelling  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Vacant   Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### 7. Description

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

  COLONIAL  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE  

roof   METAL: Tin  

walls   STONE; WOOD: Weatherboard  

other   STONE --Chimney

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
ARCHITECTURE; ARCHAEOLOGY

**Period of Significance** circa 1750-1927

**Significant Date** circa 1750

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(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- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- \_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- Other

Name of repository: APVA Preservation Virginia

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** 2.027 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17/739809/4335852</u>	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____

\_\_\_ 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**  
=====

name/title Sara K. Eskridge, Consultant  
organization APVA Preservation Virginia date December 19, 2006  
street & number 1128 Hermitage Road, Apt. 420 telephone (804) 387-9343  
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23220

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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)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

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

name APVA Preservation Virginia  
street & number 204 W. Franklin Street telephone (804) 648-1889, ext. 720  
city or town Richmond state VA zip 23220

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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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Fort Colvin, built circa 1750, is located in the southwestern portion of Frederick County, approximately four miles from Winchester, off Route 621 on a currently undeveloped parcel in the Stonebrook Farms residential subdivision. The property contains one building, nearly centrally positioned over a spring, as well as a stone foundation. The twenty-four by thirty-four foot, 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone and frame building is topped with a metal gabled roof and an interior chimney. The architecture of the building is believed to be representative of the Ulster region in Northern Ireland, where some of the first European settlers along the Opequon Creek originated. The one-and-a-half-story building includes a main floor with attic above and a cellar below. The first floor and the half story are each divided into two rooms with a massive stone chimney separating the spaces. A twisting boxed staircase behind the chimney on the first floor gives access to two rooms under the rafters above. At some point the southeast corner of the structure collapsed and was replaced by an indented, frame wall reorienting the entrance to a sheltered corner porch. Unlike almost every other 18<sup>th</sup>-century structure on Opequon Creek, Fort Colvin was never expanded into a larger building. An archaeological investigation of the property in 2003 suggested that a foundation, a contributing site uncovered to the northeast of the house, was a small domestic outbuilding. There is also a small footbridge ruins along the spring-fed tributary leading to the house, which is here-in considered a contributing object.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Fort Colvin includes an 18<sup>th</sup>-century rectangular stone and frame building measuring approximately twenty-four by thirty-four feet. Built over a spring and perpendicular to Opequon Creek with the gable side facing the water, the building has a foundation of stone piers, and its walls are also composed primarily of stone. There is a portion on the southeast side of the building that appears to have collapsed at some undetermined point and was replaced with wood instead of stone. The upper gable ends are clad in weatherboard. The porch, also located on the southeast side, is also made of wood and features severely weathered supporting columns with lamb's tongue chamfered corners. The house contains ten windows that were most likely replaced in the early twentieth century with one-over-one lights. All of the panes are missing. Several of the windows have been boarded up. There is also one small window opening on the north side of the building at ground level which contains roughly hewn thick vertical bars placed close together. The metal roof is side-gabled. There is also an interior massive stone chimney and hearth, with a fireplace opening into each of the first floor rooms. Significant interior elements include beaded ceiling joists on the first floor, tongue-and-groove, wide-beaded wall boards, wainscoting, batten doors, and simple window and door trim. Mortises still visible in the first-floor ceiling joists indicate that a jamb wall once extended several feet along the axis of the house from the front corner of the chimney. Additional mortises mark the existence of another wall

once dividing the larger, first-story room front to back.<sup>1</sup> Random-width pine floor boards are severely deteriorated on the first floor, but the flooring in the attic is in good condition. The cellar has a dirt floor.

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The building has three exterior doors--two on the ground level entering the cellar and the other provides access to the first-floor porch. All three doors are made of wood boards with forged strap hinges and are severely deteriorated. The first-floor door, which is located at the porch entrance, features a hand-forged, wrought iron door handle.

The earliest reference to the land that includes Fort Colvin is noted in a warrant acquired in 1750 by Thomas Marquis and John Willson for a survey of the ungranted land near where they lived in proximity to Opeckon (now Opequon) Creek.<sup>2</sup> The following year a detailed survey was prepared, including a detailed drawing of the property and a description of boundaries. The drawing shows a structure marked "Marquis his Spring House", and this building is located in the same area as Fort Colvin is today. The springhouse may have formed the earliest core of Fort Colvin, meaning the earliest portion of the house could pre-date 1750. A letter from local architectural historian John Lewis to Kay Dawson, owner of the property in 1990, suggests that "the 'Fort' might have been a log spring-house which was improved by re-building it with stone..."<sup>3</sup> Lewis must have reached this hypothesis based solely on a physical examination of the structure, as there is nothing in the way of documentary evidence to support the theory. The letter does not make any reference to the patent description which locates Thomas Marquis's springhouse on the same site as Fort Colvin.<sup>4</sup> The only other possibility is that Fort Colvin was built by the Marquis family before 1772, the year the property, which included 151 acres as well as the structure now known as Fort Colvin, was sold to the Joseph Jones family. The description of the property and acreage do not allow definitive mapping of this parcel. However, as this is the only known transaction between the Marquis and Jones families, it almost certainly includes the Fort Colvin tract and is mentioned in court instruments regarding the Jones property in the nineteenth century.<sup>5</sup> Even without the court documentation, it is highly improbable that the Jones family built Fort Colvin, given that they were an English family and the structure contains elements possibly indicative of Ulster vernacular architecture from the time period.

Fort Colvin is unusual because its form and plan is different from other 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone houses located along the banks of Opequon Creek, but it is also significant because unlike these other houses, Fort Colvin was never expanded into a larger house. Aside from slight alterations to the south wall of the building from repairs, it has largely retained its original 18<sup>th</sup>-century size and architectural style.

Given that the frame wall on the southeast corner of the structure is of newer construction than the main structure, at some point this portion of the structure probably collapsed and was replaced by an indented, frame wall reorienting the entrance to a position sheltered by a porch whose posts are inserted between the existing wall plate and the door.<sup>6</sup>

The roof was constructed with common rafters without a ridge pole, which was a common style of roof framing in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Europe. This type of roofing is also prevalent in the other 18<sup>th</sup>-century structures still

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rafter roof after the discovery that riven clapboards, readily yielded up by American forests and nailed directly to the rafters, produced a rigid and durable roof.<sup>7</sup> Also, because the house is perpendicular to the creek with the gable side facing water, the roof ridge points toward the water as well, making the axis of the house run down rather than along the hill slope. Such positioning suggests that there may have been expectations of longitudinally expanding the structure.

The building's central-hearth plan was popular in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Ulster, where most dwellings had at least one story, two rooms, a central chimney, and an entrance into a lobby adjacent to the hearth. However, this plan was almost unheard of in the houses on Opequon Creek, where gable-end chimneys and hearths were more prevalent. The anomaly is surprising, since the form and plans of the house is strongly reminiscent of Ulster, where many of the other Scots-Irish settlers in the area originated. They certainly would have been familiar with the central-hearth design, but most chose instead to build simple log cabins on their arrival instead. During the early stage of settlement, few could afford to devote large sums of money to housing construction. The simple log cabins were later readily adaptable to the 18<sup>th</sup>-century symmetrical designs that later became popular.<sup>8</sup> The central-hearth plan may at least partially explain why Fort Colvin survived until the present day with relatively few modifications. The central-hearth design is less adaptable than its gable-end hearth contemporaries in the late eighteenth century, which may have discouraged expansion of the structure into a large Georgian-style dwelling.<sup>9</sup> As a result, Fort Colvin is a rare surviving example of frontier construction with its roots in Irish vernacular architecture.

In addition to the main building, there is a stone foundation to the northeast of the main house, and just southwest of the house are the remains of a footbridge. Cement footings are all that remain of the footbridge that once would have provided access over the spring-fed tributary leading under the house.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Fort Colvin, a rare example of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Colonial architecture in the Lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, is believed to be representative of architecture found in the Ulster region of northern Ireland. The small, rectangular, one-and-a-half-story, stone and frame building covered by a metal gable roof with an interior stone chimney, nearly centrally positioned, sits within a largely undeveloped portion of the Stonebrook Farms housing division in Frederick County, Virginia. Built circa 1750 on the east bank of Opequon Creek, Fort Colvin and its surrounding property comprise approximately 2.027 acres.

Fort Colvin is believed to have been built by some of the first European settlers in the first multi-ethnic community west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The settlement to which the house belongs possibly served as the base for the settlement of the entire Lower Shenandoah Valley.<sup>10</sup> Although a number of houses built in the vicinity during the same time period still stand, Fort Colvin is one of few that has not been significantly altered from its original design.

Although an archaeological survey completed by the College of William and Mary in 2003 determined that the structure was not used for military purposes during the French and Indian War, according to local legend, the building is thought to have been used as a settler's fort by Joseph Colvill in 1755, following the defeat of General Edward Braddock. These traditional associations have helped to give Fort Colvin the name that it bears today. Archaeological investigations completed in 2003 identified a contributing site located at the northeast corner of the house, which is thought to have been a small domestic outbuilding, and remains of a footbridge.

**CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION**

Fort Colvin meets National Register Criterion A under the Exploration/Settlement area of significance. The mid-18<sup>th</sup> century house was built by some of the first European settlers in the first multi-ethnic community west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The settlement to which the house belongs possibly served as the base for the settlement of the entire Lower Shenandoah Valley. Fort Colvin also meets Criterion C in the area of architectural significance as an example of a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular style house representing form and elements from the Ulster region of northern Ireland. The house has retained its size and form for over 250 years and is one of the only surviving houses in the area that has not been expanded. Finally, Fort Colvin meets Criterion D as having potential for archaeological study in such areas as the farmstead life of the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia.



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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

From 1730 to 1760 a multi-ethnic community emerged along the Opequon Creek extending from the foothills of Little North Mountain to the west across the Philadelphia Wagon Road and into the region of shale soil at the center of the Lower Shenandoah Valley. Homesteads were appropriated to 22 families, all representatives of early Scots-Irish and German settlements. This community represents the earliest known multiethnic settlement formed west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and serves as the base upon which the settlement of the Lower Shenandoah Valley took place.<sup>11</sup> All of the occupation sites of the first Opequon settlers are excellent documentation of the settlement pattern of the eighteenth century community, but Fort Colvin is most valuable because it is the only one that maintains its original form and architecture. The fact that the site is also located on Opequon Creek is also valuable because it helps us understand the manner in which the first Europeans dispersed and took up land across an open environment and the factors that influenced those decisions. Settlers invariably chose to build homesteads close to the Opequon or one of its tributaries, and each was located above the flood plain but within several hundred yards of the creek bed.

In 1756, Thomas Marquis and John Willson were granted the tract for an unknown sum plus a rent of one shilling per fifty acres due yearly to Thomas Lord Fairfax. The two versions of Fort Colvin's early history involve the two competing land-granting enterprises in the Valley during the mid-eighteenth century. On the west side of the Opequon Creek, Jost Hite was acting as a land agent on behalf of Virginia governor William Gooch. In 1732, the colonial government authorized Hite to distribute up to 140,000 acres in tracts of no more than one thousand acres. Hite and his partner, Robert McKay, had to recruit a large number of settlers for this area in order to benefit from the land sales. There was a strong effort during this time period to create settlements in the western frontier portion of the Virginia colony, which would act as a shield against attacks on the Piedmont and Tidewater sections of the colony by the French settlers in the Ohio Valley, who were continuously pushing eastward.<sup>12</sup> On the east side of the Opequon Creek, Marquis, Willson, and other settlers were granted land by Fairfax's land agents under the authority of the Northern Neck Proprietary. In 1664, Fairfax's ancestor, Thomas Lord Culpeper, had received the vast tract as a personal gift from Charles II in return for his political loyalty.<sup>13</sup> By the mid-eighteenth century, most of the Proprietary lands had been granted and Fairfax's agents began laying claim to land in the Valley. Disputes between the colony and the Proprietary over Valley land continued throughout the colonial period.<sup>14</sup>

The construction date of Fort Colvin is unknown, but the building is believed to have been built while the land belonged to Thomas Marquis and John Willson. The house is located across Opequon Creek from the 360-acre tract of land owned by Joseph Colvill, for whom the building takes its name and with whose family the structure has been historically associated. All three of these gentlemen were among the original members of the settlement, although it is unknown if all of the men traveled together or separately. According to John

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Willson's tombstone in Opequon, he left Ireland's County Armagh in 1737, but there is currently no documentation relating to the immigration dates of the other two men.<sup>15</sup>

At some point Joseph Colvill may have taken up residence in the stone house, as an inventory taken of the home on May 17, 1758 indicates that Colvill was living in the building up until shortly before his death. Colvill was a brewer by trade, and the house contained a "brewing keeve", various coolers, funnels, water cans, pots, barrels, and other paraphernalia suggesting that the cellar rooms of the house were being used as a brewery.<sup>16</sup> While Colvill may have lived in the building, records indicate that he never owned the property. Thomas Marquis sold the property containing Fort Colvin, along with 151 acres of surrounding land, to Joseph Jones in 1772. The association of the house with the Colvill family can probably be attributed to Jones's purchase of adjacent land from Andrew Colvill shortly before the acquisition of the Marquis land.

Based on the results of an archaeological excavation at the site undertaken by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research in 2003, the researchers determined that the house was occupied during two separate periods, pre- and post-dating 1850.<sup>17</sup> Most of the debris, which included pottery shards, glass, and nails yielded by excavation done in the cellar and around the perimeter of the structure, date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In addition to this, there were also areas of excavation that uncovered a sprinkling of debris dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>18</sup> The types of debris found, including window glass, earthenware, and clay tobacco pipes, suggest that there was domestic activity in the house during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>19</sup> The most intensive and extensive use of the house occurred during the Jones family ownership of the property from the late eighteenth century through 1927. They also determined that the building was not used as a primary residence, as the Joneses also owned the area across the Creek, which contained Valley Stream Farm, Joseph Colvill's former house and a much larger structure than Fort Colvin. By the time Joseph Jones's will was proved in 1793, he had amassed far more land than the 157-acre Colvill tract and the land that included Fort Colvin on the opposite side of Opequon Creek.<sup>20</sup> His wife would eventually acquire two plantations, including one purchased from Philip Bush "where Wm. Keys lives" (possibly a tenant or farm manager).<sup>21</sup> This plantation alone was probably at least 300 to 400 acres, judging by the inheritance passed to Jones's two sons.<sup>22</sup> In addition to this large amount of agricultural land, Jones also had one town lot located in Stephensburg (now Stephens City) and another on "Main Street" in Winchester. Jones also owned a slave and mentioned cash, livestock, and other valuables in his will.<sup>23</sup> Jones provided for the eventual manumission of his "negroe man Sam", and it is possible that Sam resided in the Fort Colvin house at one time, as it was only a short distance from the main house at Valley Stream. If so, he could have occupied the residence during or prior to the period of 1793-1803.<sup>24</sup>

Joseph Jones's youngest son, also called Joseph, inherited the land including Fort Colvin and held it until 1819, when he conveyed it to his brother James. In 1874, James Jones made his will and left all his real estate to his sons Edward H. and Thomas M. Jones.<sup>25</sup> On April 23, 1909, Edward's will was proved and,

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except for three thousand dollars, all of Edward's estate went to Thomas. Less than a month later, Thomas Jones made his will, leaving the 300-acre "home tract" to his nieces, Laura S., Alice M., and his nephew, James Harvey Jones.<sup>26</sup> In 1927, the long period of Jones family ownership ended when Thomas Jones' heirs sold 198 acres of the home tract to Richard A. Cooper. A plat accompanying the deed indicates that this property included Fort Colvin.<sup>27</sup> In 1968, acting as executor of Richard A. Cooper's will, Harold Cooper, along with Richard Cooper and his wife Nina, conveyed Richard A. Cooper's estate of some 300 acres to himself and his wife Reba.<sup>28</sup> On December 30, 1972, the Coopers sold about 290 acres that included Fort Colvin to Thomas C. Glass and Graham Nelson. Only five days later, Glass and Nelson conveyed the property to the Stonebrook Swim and Racquet Club.<sup>29</sup> The property was then purchased by Thomas A. Kipps on May 7, 1987. Fort Colvin is now owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA). The APVA purchased the land from Mr. Kipps on June 24, 2004.

**Use of the Site in the French and Indian War**

Besides the confusion regarding the name of the home, there is also some confusion as to the use of the building during the French and Indian War. The setting of the building at the base of a slope would make the structure difficult to defend and is, therefore, an unlikely candidate for a military fort. Indeed, a 2003 archaeological study completed by the College of William and Mary, turned up mostly domestic-related debris. While this indicates that the house was occupied and in use during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it does not in any way connect the building with the French and Indian War or even general military operations.<sup>30</sup> The only document that connects the war with the structure in any way is Joseph Colvill's will, and the William and Mary research team believes even this has been misconstrued.<sup>31</sup> Written in 1757, the document highlighted the immediacy of the conflict in the Opequon area, and it urges Colvill's children to withhold ten pounds of their inheritance until "the Troubles of the times is over."<sup>32</sup> This is the only known documentary evidence that connects Fort Colvin in any way to the French and Indian War. Fort Colvin is also conspicuously absent from most references about the valley region during the war. The William and Mary research team could not find any primary or secondary sources that confirmed the structure's use as a military installation.

**Archaeological Evaluation of the Fort Colvin Site (44FK592), Frederick County, Virginia**

The following information is taken from the 2003 report prepared by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research. A copy of which can be found in the VDHR archives, shelved as report FK-66.

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**3: Research Design and Evaluation Methods**

Introduction (page 13): “The general objectives of work at Site 44FK592 include an evaluation of its significance and eligibility for the National register of Historic Places (NRHP), and assessment of its traditionally held association with the French and Indian War. The archaeological field work focused on sampling specific data pertaining to the age, structure, function, and preservation of the site. An emphasis was placed on the early investigation of loci within the site that would have the highest potential of containing intact subplowzone features and deposits so that the NRHP eligibility of the site could be assessed.”

Field Methods (page 13): “The field strategy for the Site 44FK592 emphasized efficient recovery of a representative sample of cultural materials from the site and determination of site structure, integrity, and components present.”

**4: Archaeological Evaluation Results**

Introduction (page 21): “The results of systematic excavation of 45 shovel tests, judgmental excavation of 10 additional shovel tests, limited metal detecting, the controlled stratigraphic excavation of four 1-x-2-m test units, and the unscreened hand-excavation of one 0.5-x-4-m test trench suggest two vertically discrete historic occupations of the site dating both pre- and post-1850, as well as the location of a possible outbuilding and/or historic activity area dating to the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century. These results indicate that the archaeological component of the Fort Colvin site should be considered as a contributing element to the NRHP listing under Criterion D. The results of the evaluation are presented” in the 2003 report “including descriptions of site stratigraphy, site structure and integrity, artifact assemblage, feature descriptions, and recommendations for further work.”

Summary of Features (page 38): The report lists features found at the site including; two animal/rodent burrows, one natural disturbance, one stone foundation, one possible living surface, and one builder’s trench. The later three “represent the remains of a structure built as early as the late eighteenth century. This structure was no longer standing by the mid- to late nineteenth century based upon the abundance of mid- to late nineteenth-century refined earthenware varieties...that overlie the foundation.” “The size and extent of the foundation...suggests it may be associated with an early outbuilding.”

**5: Research Summary and Management Recommendations**

Research Summary (page 45): “Site 44FK592 comprises a light scatter of Early Woodland artifacts, and a dense, concentrated scatter of mid- to late nineteenth- through early twentieth-century domestic artifacts

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(with smaller amounts of materials diagnostic of the late eighteenth through early nineteenth centuries). Mid-to late nineteenth- through early twentieth-century architectural and domestic debris is proportionally very high and concentrated within 7-15 m of the standing Fort Colvin house, with peripheral domestic debris recovered from across the remainder of the tested area.”

Management Recommendations (page 46): “Archaeological resources at Site 44FK592 have the potential to address specific research issues related to material culture, subsistence, and settlement organization within the contexts of Shenandoah Valley life during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Analysis of its artifacts and architectural remains could shed light on issues of status, consumer preference, and site organization. For example, comparisons of the material culture of the Fort Colvin site tenants with other excavated nineteenth-century Valley farmsteads could allow for the opportunity to explore the standard of living and market participation of regionally distinct Virginia households.”

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

Fort Colvin is located on an undeveloped plot of land in the Stonebrook Farms residential subdivision. It is bordered on the south by Stonebrook Road, to the west by Opequon Creek, to the east by a small unnamed road, and to the north by Jones Road. The 2.027-acre tract is known as tax parcel #62-A-51A found in the Frederick County Planning Office, Winchester, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification**

The western boundary of the Fort Colvin property along Opequon Creek is that which has been historically attributed to the property. All other property boundaries were set by the Stonebrook Farms residential subdivision.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

All photographs common to:

**PROPERTY: Fort Colvin**

**COUNTY: Frederick County, VA**

**VDHR FILE NO.: 034-0026**

**PHOTOGRAPHER: Sarah Cooleen**

**DATE: 12/11/2006**

**LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia**

Photo 1 of 17  
South elevation  
Neg.No.: 23273:18

Photo 2 of 17  
East elevation  
Neg. No.: 23273:1

Photo 3 of 17  
West elevation  
Neg. No.: 23273:3

Photo 4 of 17  
North elevation  
Neg. No.: 23337:22

Photo 5 of 17  
South elevation, detail  
Neg. No.: 23337:23

Photo 6 of 17  
Second floor, fireplace, facing east  
Neg. No.: 23273:28

Photo 7 of 17  
Second floor, facing north  
Neg. No.: 23273:30



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Photo 8 of 17  
Second floor, facing east  
Neg. No.: 23273:31

Photo 9 of 17  
Enclosed staircase, second floor  
Neg. No.: 23337:4

Photo 10 of 17  
Second floor, room behind main room, facing west  
Neg. No.: 23273:26

Photo 11 of 17  
Beaded joists, detail  
Neg. No.: 23273:33

Photo 12 of 17  
Third floor, facing east  
Neg. No.: 23337:7

Photo 13 of 17  
First floor, facing south, east room  
Neg. No.: 23336:5

Photo 14 of 17  
First floor, facing south, west room  
Neg. No.: 23336:9

Photo 15 of 17  
Strap hinges, detail  
Neg. No.:23336:23

Photo 16 of 17  
Exterior basement window  
Neg. No.: 23273:5

Photo 17 of 17  
Porch, chamfered column  
Neg. No.:23337:2

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Hofstra, "Folk Housing At Opequon Settlement," Ulster Folklife, Vol.37, 1991,49.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Neck Grants and Surveys 1690-1862, Land Office Grants, Northern Neck Grants database online, <http://eagle.vsla.edu/lonn/>, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> John Lewis, Letter to Kay Dawson, 9 Nov 1990. Copy on file, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives Room, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>4</sup> William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research, Archaeological Evaluation of the Fort Colvin Site (44fk592), Frederick County, Virginia (Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2003),8.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 10.

<sup>6</sup> Hofstra, 49.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 55.

<sup>9</sup> William and Mary, 1.

<sup>10</sup> Clarence R. Geier and Warren R. Hofstra, "An Archaeological Survey of and Management Plan for Cultural Resources in the Vicinity of the Upper Opequon Creek," August 1991, 94

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Hofstra, 36-37.

<sup>13</sup> Cecil O'Dell, Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1995), pviii.

<sup>14</sup> William and Mary, 8.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Frederick County Records, Will Book 2:311, Originals on file, Clerk's office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>17</sup> William and Mary, 21.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 22.

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid, 31.

<sup>20</sup> Frederick County Records, Will Book 5:432, Originals on file, Clerk's Office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>21</sup> William and Mary, 10.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, 10-11.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, 11.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Frederick County Records, Will Book 32:52, Originals on file, Clerk's Office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>26</sup> Frederick County Records, Will Book 44:5 and 44:113, Originals on file, Clerk's Office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>27</sup> Frederick County Deed Book 155:509, Originals on file, Clerk's Office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>28</sup> Frederick County Records, Deed Book 350:147, Originals on file, Clerk's Office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>29</sup> Frederick County Records, Deed Book 402:396, Originals on file, Clerk's Office, Frederick County Courthouse, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>30</sup> William and Mary, 46.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 6.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

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