

VLR- 8/15/72 NRHP- 9/22/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: GLOUCESTER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
ROARING SPRINGS

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
ROARING SPRINGS

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
. 3 mi. E of Rt. 616, 1.2 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 17.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester vicinity (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Gloucester	CODE 073
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY **Now owned by: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, d/o Mr. R. A. Murdock, Executive Director (2/2/78)**

OWNER'S NAME:  
(Occupants):  
Mr. S. A. Janney & Miss Emily R. Janney

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 388  
270 S PARK AVENUE

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220  
Virginia

STATE: VIRGINIA	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Roaring Springs is located off a country road just to the north of the village of Gloucester Court House. The colonial farmhouse is situated in a park-like setting, being surrounded with broad lawns and large shade trees on the edge of fields once used for growing narcissus. Behind the house is an old-fashioned flower garden whose box borders have grown up so that the paths now tunnel through the shrubbery. Immediately to the south of the front lawn is a tree-shaded pond fed by the large spring from which the place takes its name. The property retains only one early outbuilding, a frame smokehouse located just to the northwest of the house.

The one-and-a-half-story gambrel roofed house is built in two sections. The two-bay west end of the house is the original portion and the two-bay east end is a later addition. The division between the two sections can be detected easily since the east end is slightly deeper and taller than the original section. The general architectural character and surviving architectural details in the two sections are quite similar, indicating that the east end was a very early addition, erected probably no more than fifteen to twenty years later than the original portion. The chief evidence for the west end being the original portion is that the east foundation wall for that section (now situated between the two halves of the house) is an exterior wall laid in Flemish bond.

Most of the house's exterior fabric such as clapboarding, roofing, and sash has been renewed. Two original interior end chimneys, however, are preserved. Each stack has a corbeled cap with plastered band. Nearly all the sash and window trim, both in the dormers and on the first floor appear to have been renewed around the second quarter of the nineteenth century when the house apparently underwent an extensive renovation. All the windows have symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks, and thin-muntin sash. The front doorway also dates from the mid-nineteenth century, having glazed sidelights and rectangular transom framing a Greek Revival-type door with six octagonal panels. The three-bay hipped roof porch is also a later addition. The kitchen wing on the west end incorporates an early but not original porch.

The chief glory of Roaring Spring's interior is the splendid paneled end wall in the large east room. This wall is composed of a paneled chimneypiece flanked by fluted floor-to-ceiling pilasters. Beyond the pilasters are round-arched openings framing the end windows. The arches are supported on fluted pilasters and are topped with fluted keystones. The alcoves behind the arches originally were lined with shelves hung with glazed sashes in the manner of Toddsbury, a colonial plantation house also in Gloucester County. The sashes have been removed, however, and three sets of the shelves have been closed off with mid-nineteenth century doors. Unfortunately the original mantel shelf has been replaced with a somewhat plain Greek Revival-type mantel, although the outline of the original can still be detected. Except for the mantel and the three later doors set into the sides of the arches, the whole of this end wall has been oak grained and has mellowed to a dark rich color. Around the rest of the room is paneled wainscot and molded cornice which is also oak grained. The doorways and windows are all treated with mid-nineteenth century trim.

The present three-flight stair in the hall is thought to have been installed when the east room was added even though it is located in the earlier portion of the house. This handsome stair is treated with a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

V. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian:       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | <u>local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roaring Springs stands as one of the most picturesque and handsomely sited eighteenth century farmhouses in Gloucester County. Named for the large spring to the southwest of the dwelling which in early times is said to have made a "roaring sound" from an underground cascade or waterfall, the rambling gambrel roof dwelling makes no pretensions to high-style colonial architecture, rather it is an archetypical example of the informal "Old Virginia" homestead, remodelled and added on to over many generations. The house's charm is greatly enhanced by its park-like setting and surrounding rolling countryside which contrasts with the flat landscape around the Gloucester County houses located along the rivers. Despite its general informal quality, Roaring Spring possesses a paneled end wall of major significance. Over twenty feet in width, this superb wall, with its fluted pilasters and arched openings, is the widest of a series of such walls in the Gloucester County region. Other examples are to be found in Toddsbury, Goshen, Belle Farm (formerly in Gloucester County, but dismantled and re-erected in Williamsburg), and Chelsea in nearby King William County.

Because of the destruction of most of the early records of Gloucester County little is know of the early history of Roaring Spring. It may have been part of Mordecai Cooke's 1,174 acre tract patented in 1659 which was bounded by Cow Creek on its west bank, and was known to have proceeded north of "Mordecai's Mount." Architecturally both the original portion of the house and the east end belong to the first half of the eighteenth century, but the exact construction date and builder are unknown. The earliest documented mention of the property is a policy of the Mutual Assurance Society made out for the then owner, Francis Thornton, in 1802. Covered by the policy was a dwelling house 58 feet by 25 feet, a wood smokehouse, a wooden barn, and a wood kitchen. Thornton renewed the policy in 1805 and 1815. The earliest mention of the property in the surviving Gloucester County records is 1825 when Richard Baytop Taliaferro was given "a life estate", transferred to him by "intermarriage with Eliza S. Thornton". In 1860 Eliza Taliaferro's estate sold the property to William Stephen Field. In 1879 Sallie T. Field sold it to Joseph Franklin of St. Louis, Michigan. On January 30, 1901, Roaring Spring was acquired by Richard Mott Janney of Montgomery County, Maryland. The house had been unoccupied for some years when Janney bought it, and extensive renovation was required. The present owners of Roaring Spring are children of Richard Janney.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

molded handrail, partially reeded square balusters set on a diagonal, square newels and scrolled brackets. The hall is also surrounded with paneled wainscot which ascends the stairwell. Unfortunately all the original trim in the west room has been replaced with very simple mid-nineteenth century trim.

The second floor plan has been altered to some extent by the enclosing of part of the upper portion of the hall. The only original woodwork remaining on the second floor includes the upper portion of the stair railing and four six-paneled doors. Two of these doors are used in the entrances to the two bedrooms over the first floor east room, and the other two are in the west bedroom - one used in the entrance and one for a closet. Despite the difference in age in the house's two ends the doors are identical.

Although the Roaring Spring house has not been formally restored, it is maintained in excellent condition. The interior maintains an atmosphere of age and charm which is enhanced by the present owners' extensive collection of Virginia antiques.

CCL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Christian, Frances Archer, and Susanne Williams Massie, editors,  
Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia, Richmond: Garrett & Massie, Inc., 1962.

Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Policy no. 650, r2, vol. 15, r4,  
 vol. 36, r5, vol. 43.

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37 ° 26 ' 12 "	76 ° 32 ' 16 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 26 ' 12 "	76 ° 31 ' 22 "				
SE	37 ° 25 ' 33 "	76 ° 31 ' 22 "				
SW	37 ° 25 ' 33 "	76 ° 32 ' 16 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 194 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: June, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name J. R. Fishburne  
 J. R. Fishburne, Director  
 Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date AUG 15 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

