

VLR-9/18/73 NRHP-10/25/73

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Virginia

COUNTY:
Augusta

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Folly

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lee Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Staunton vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth; M. Caldwell Butler

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Augusta CODE: 015

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<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

OWNER'S NAME:
Joseph Smith Cochran, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lee Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Staunton

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Augusta County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Staunton

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934; 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

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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

Folly Plantation is located five miles south of Staunton on the west side of U. S. Route 11. Its domestic complex is set conspicuously on a ridge parallel to the highway and is reached by an axial avenue. The surrounding terrain consists of rolling pastureland with wooded hills forming a backdrop. The whole combines to form one of the most memorable settings in the Shenandoah Valley.

The focal point of the complex is the distinctive Jeffersonian style dwelling house - a one-story structure of brick with full basement. Attached to the south side is a long, low service wing which, according to family tradition, is the earliest portion, and was used, it is said, as the family dwelling while the main part of the house was under construction. The more formal main part is a symmetrical composition, originally divided into four principal rooms with center hall and cross halls. The facade or east wall is fronted by a tetrastyle pedimented portico with stuccoed Tuscan columns and a simple lunette in the pediment. The portico floor is supported on tall brick piers without arches. The general proportions of the portico are somewhat provincial and the pediment entablature has no architrave. Wide wooden steps lead up to the portico and handsome iron railings enclose the sides. A similar portico is located on the north side but its steps have been removed. A third portico originally was on the west side but it has been replaced by a wing added in 1856.

The entry door on the east front is based on a modified Palladian three-part scheme. Double doors are topped by a lunette, and flanked by four-pane vertical sidelights. Vari-colored glass, probably a Victorian addition, remains in some of the upper sidelights. The more narrow north portico has no sidelights, and the sidelights of the former west portico are now closed up with bookcases.

The house is covered by a deck-on-hip roof with a simple wooden balustrade surrounding the deck. The main cornice is a simple molded brick one typical of Valley farmhouses. Enhancing the formality of the mass are two slender interior-end chimneys located on each of the side walls. The walls are laid in very fine Flemish bond with narrow mortar joints, and are in a good state of repair. Bricks inscribed "E.T. Saunders, 1820" and "E. T.S." are located to the right of the north door. These inscriptions probably were made by a mason.

Original doors and windows throughout are enframed with locust and are reeded. Corner blocks with concentric circles are found on both interior and exterior trim. Tapered fluted keyblocks ornament the arches above the exterior doorways and the cross hall arches. An unusual use of a larger lintel over a smaller lintel is found over the three-part windows flanking the east portico. This device serves to unite the separate elements into a single composition.

The spacious center hall with an 11'-10" ceiling has been given a longer vista by the "end room" in the 1856 west addition. This area, approached through a short hall (once the west portico), now serves as a bedroom. In the main part, the southeast room is used as a library and the northeast room is the parlor. The archway of the south cross hall was partially filled in, in 1949, and the east wall of the north cross hall was removed circa 1900 to enlarge the parlor. The most dominant features of the two principal rooms are the marble mantels purchased in 1821 from William Widdifield, a Quaker merchant of Philadelphia. The more elaborate drawing room mantel has engaged columns set on low plinths and a shallow incised panel outline beneath the

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7.

shelf. Both mantels, as well as the marble facings in the principal bedrooms are King of Prussia marble.

Most of the interior woodwork is painted a deep brown, and probably was originally grained. Much early wood graining survives on the basement woodwork.

The one-and-half-story south wing is fronted by a Tuscan colonnade which has been enclosed with glazing. The wing contains the kitchen, and the present dining room. (The room now used as the library formerly was the dining room). Two bedrooms are located above. While modifications have taken place in both the wing and the main part of the house, the essential early-nineteenth century character has not been disturbed. This early character is greatly enhanced by a remarkable collection of family furniture, portraits, and books.

In the immediate vicinity of the house are several picturesque outbuildings, including a springhouse, smokehouse and icehouse. The brick springhouse is fronted by a quaint portico and has scalloped eaves and a lattice belfry. Enhancing the yard are a number of large shade trees and box bushes.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the grounds is the original brick serpentine wall which encloses three sides of a large garden area on the north side of the approaching avenue. A section of serpentine wall originally enclosed the southeast corner of the front yard, and joined into the icehouse. The present picket fence in this position was installed in after 1856. The remaining portions of serpentine wall have been repaired and rebuilt in a number of places, but otherwise are in a good state of preservation considering their age and frail nature.

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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) 1818

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Folly is an architecturally significant and excellently preserved Jeffersonian style house in an unspoiled plantation setting. With its picturesque outbuildings, old-fashioned gardens, rare serpentine walls, and beautiful rolling farmland, Folly presents a scene that is uniquely Virginian.

Construction of the house was begun in 1818 on landholdings belonging to Joseph Smith (1785-1863). While the one-story porticoed dwelling clearly shows the influence of Thomas Jefferson's distinctive interpretation of Palladian forms, no documentary evidence has come to light indicating that Jefferson had a direct hand in its design. Smith served in the House of Delegates in 1817 and may have had contact with Jefferson in this capacity. He may also have known Colonel James Powell Cocke whose Jefferson-designed home, Edgemont, Folly closely resembles. Smith must certainly have known Jefferson's buildings at the University of Virginia, where the idea for Folly's serpentine walls undoubtedly originated. With the loss of the original walls at the University, Folly's walls remain the only early-nineteenth century example of this unusual form in Virginia.

Folly has remained in the ownership of Joseph Smith's descendants to the present day. Following his death in 1863, the plantation passed to his granddaughter, Elizabeth (Mrs. James C. Cochran). The present owner, Joseph Smith Cochran, Jr., grandson of James and Elizabeth Cochran, inherited Folly in 1943. Farming operations are continued on the property although wheat, the primary crop throughout the nineteenth century, is no longer grown.

CCL

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