

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Spring Grove

AND/OR COMMON
Spring Grove

2 LOCATION

1.5 miles Southwest of Oak Corner; .4 mile East of U.S. Route 301;
.4 mile West of State Route 627; 1.5 miles Southwest of intersection
of state routes 627 and 721.

CITY, TOWN
Oak Corner

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE
Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Caroline

CODE
033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: none

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Edmund
Mr. J. W. DeJarnette

STREET & NUMBER
2707 N Street, NW
~~DeJarnette and Beale, Inc., 104 South Main Street~~

CITY, TOWN
Washington, DC 20007
Bowling Green
STATE
~~Virginia 2242~~

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Caroline County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Bowling Green
STATE
Virginia 22427

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see continuation sheet #1)

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE
1957
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington,
STATE
DC

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1970, 1976 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spring Grove, a DeJarnette family property since the eighteenth century, is a large wooded tract near the Mattaponi River south of Bowling Green in Caroline County. The present house, believed to be the third on the site, is an imposing villa built in the Italianate style in 1856 and is one of the largest and finest examples of its type in Virginia.

The house consists of a two-story, three-bay central block, 53 by 48 feet, set on a high basement, with long, one-story, two-bay wings also set on high basements, stretching out to either side. Though the whole is 113 feet long and, with the attic space and cupola, stands five stories high at the center, the carefully controlled use of very few but outsized openings and large-scale detailing, helps to create a feeling of monumentality without being oppressive.

The heavy cubical massing of the central block is emphasized by the belt course which sets the basement off from the upper stories, by the plain corner pilasters, and by the low hipped roof with its deep eaves embellished with brick dentils and a profusion of sawn wood brackets. Four low interior end chimneys with paneled sides rise from the eaves, and a cupola surmounts the center of the roof. The cupola also has a low hipped roof with a bracketed cornice, and there is a triple round-headed window on each side. The corners of the cupola are marked by Doric pilasters. The wings are also treated with corner pilasters, a belt course (except on the rear), and interior end chimneys but lack the eaves brackets.

The house is built of brick covered with a yellow-brown stucco having white-painted joints in imitation of masonry. The basement is lighted by windows with shallow segmental heads. The employment of the four-over-four basement sash divided into groups of two lights by heavy vertical muntins is another device which helps to control the scale of the building. The upper-story openings also have segmental heads. They are further embellished with louvred blinds, brick hood molds and heavy granite sills supported on corbels. Eight-over-eight sash, again employing heavy central muntins to divide the lights into groups of four, are used on the first floor, and plain six-over-six sash are used in the smaller second-story windows. Both the front and rear entrances are hung with double doors with applied-mold panels and have tall five-light transoms with segmental heads. They are flanked by less-lofty, round-headed sidelights, and the three openings are linked by an enframing consisting of paneled Doric pilasters from the capitals of which the architrave and archivolt, respectively, of the door and sidelights spring. The front porch, supported on four Doric piers, has a tall, unembellished frieze and a low hipped roof. Its steps have been rebuilt, but surviving on the parapets of the steps are a pair of cast-iron lions, apparently procured from Janes, Kirtland and Co. of New York, N.Y., after the Civil War. They closely resemble Design number 174 in that company's 1870 catalog. The superstructures of all three rear porches--one at the main entrance and two other in the reëntrant angles between the wings and the central block--have been rebuilt, as have the rear steps, but the porches themselves are original.

Of special note are the eight original lead downspouts which survive. These have gray
(see Continuation Sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

bodies with stars and crescents stamped in relief and painted gold; the date 1856 is stenciled on each. It is unusual to find so many--the full complement--surviving on a single building.

The plan of Spring Grove is relatively simple. The central block is a double-pile, central-passage structure with stairs rising in the passage. Each of the wings has a single large room at its far end, connected with the main block by a passage running along the west (rear) wall; a smaller room opens off this. Another stair, entered from the passage in the north wing, rises between the northeast and northwest rooms of the main block. Stairs to the basement descend from the passages in each wing.

The interior is distinguished for its profusion of handsome plaster and woodwork, most of which retains its original graining and marbleding. The passage contains the main stair, which is curved and has an open string with slender turned balusters, a heavy turned newel, and a molded rail. Two round niches are set in the rear wall of the stairwell halfway between the first and second floors. All of the doors in the passage, as is the case throughout the central section of the house, have broad architrave frames with crossettes and heavy cornices. The door frames are grained to resemble a blond oak; the doors are grained a somewhat darker color, and the baseboards are painted to resemble a black-bodied variegated marble. A plaster cornice and ornate vegetative ceiling medallion completes the decoration of the passage.

South of the passage are the double parlors, connected by a broad opening hung with doors which slide into the walls. Each of the parlors has a plaster cornice and ceiling ornament like that in the passage. Each has, in addition, a light gray marble mantel having plain piers supporting a frieze with a curvilinear soffit and incised spondyls. The baseboards are marbled a light gray color to match the mantels. In the west parlor remains a single red velvet, Moorish-type window hanging which may date from the nineteenth century.

In the south wing, opening off the east parlor, is the library. This small room has bookshelves built across its south end and projecting from the wall. The ends of the shelves are decorated with plain Roman Doric pilasters grained a dark green color. The baseboards here have black marbleding like that in the passage.

The north rooms in the main section have black marble mantels with incised and inlaid ornaments. Friezes with curvilinear soffits and elaborate central cartouches are supported on freestanding columns. The dark baseboard marbleding of the passage is employed here, as well. No ceiling medallions are used in these chambers, but there are plaster cornices.
(see Continuation sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION:

Both of the end rooms of the wings are extremely plain. They have simple Greek-Revival-type mantels with pilasters supporting unadorned friezes.

Much of the original furniture of Spring Grove survived in the house until two years ago, when it was stolen. A single canopy bed remains. No early outbuildings survive.

DTU

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spring Grove plantation house in rural Caroline County, ranks among Virginia's finest and best-preserved domestic examples of the Italianate villa-style, popular throughout the country in the years just prior to the War Between the States. In his popular work The Architecture of Country Houses (1850), Andrew Jackson Downing noted that the Italianate style with its broad roofs and bold, overhanging cornices was especially suited to the southern states. Its monumental massing and detailing, prodigious size, fine plaster and woodwork, and handsome graining and marbleizing all mark it as one of the state's outstanding mid-nineteenth-century houses. Adding to its interest is the fact that it has remained in the ownership of the family who built it and who have owned the property since the eighteenth century.

The DeJarnette family were reputedly Huguenot emigrants to Virginia in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The name first appears in the Abingdon Parish (Gloucester County) register in 1704. By the mid-eighteenth century, some members had moved to Caroline County and apparently were living on the Spring Grove tract.

The present house, at least the third on the site, was built in 1856 by Daniel Coleman DeJarnette (1822-1881), a scholar and a member of the Virginia House of Delegates (1853-1858) and of the U.S. House of Representatives. DeJarnette also represented Virginia in the Confederate Congress. Unfortunately, no indication of an architect or builder of the house survives among DeJarnette's effects, although the quality of its design, indicates that the house probably had an architect.

Spring Grove passed to DeJarnette's widow when he died, and thence to his son, Daniel, Jr. The present owner, Joseph W. DeJarnette, is the great-grandson of the builder.

DTU

MTP

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wingfield, Marshall. History of Caroline County. Richmond, Virginia., 1924
 Caroline County Land Books, Plat Book (1777-1840), Will Book 32.
Ornamental Iron Work: Janes, Kirtland and Company, 1870. Princeton, N.J., 197L.
 Torrence, William Clayton, "DeJarnette Family," in the William and Mary Quarterly,
 First Series, 25 (1917).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 530 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	29,63,2,0	4,20,65,4,0	B	1,8	29,62,8,0	4,20,49,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	29,43,8,0	4,20,49,7,0	D	1,8	29,44,2,0	4,20,66,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Spring Grove's 530 acres are bounded by a line beginning at a point on the west side of State Route 627 one mile south of the junction of state routes 627 and 721; then curving 600 feet northwest; thence extending 5000 feet in a generally westward direction to intersection with east side of U.S. Route 301; then following east side of U.S. Route 301 for approximately 4000 feet; then curving approximately 6900 feet in a generally eastward direction to intersection with west side of State Route 627; then following west side of State Route 627 for approximately 5200 feet to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE SEP 21 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FILE: SPRING GROVE,
CAROLINE CO.

16-55
Penola 7.5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

