

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
[X] public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- [X] building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Multiple Dwelling
Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Vacant
Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
roof WOOD; ASPHALT
walls STONE; WOOD
other BRICK; CONCRETE: Block

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)

- X 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.
X 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
ETHNIC HERITAGE; Black

Period of Significance circa 1800-1865

Significant Dates circa 1800; 1865

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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

Arcola Slave Quarters

Loudoun County, Virginia

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 4.47 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	280912	4	313881	2				3		
											4

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 Elizabeth Mary Andre
 organization William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research date April 14, 2008
 street & number 327 Richmond Road telephone (757)221-2584
 city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23185

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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
=====

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

name County of Loudoun
 street & number 215 Depot Court telephone (703)777-0345
 city or town Leesburg state VA zip code 20175

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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.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The property consists of a contributing circa 1800 slave quarters, a non-contributing circa 1930 single dwelling that was constructed atop the foundation of the original plantation house, and a non-contributing late-twentieth-century frame shed. The boundary encompasses 4.42 acres of a former plantation in the southeastern portion of Loudoun County. The slave quarters is a roughly south-facing building constructed into the east bank of the dry creek bed that once held Broad Run. The quarters is located several yards northwest of and slightly downhill from the main house. The hill slopes farther down to the north, east, and west of the slave quarters. Small plantings grow along the foundation, and vines grow along the west-facing elevation. Two mature deciduous trees shade the yard between the main house and the slave quarters.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Slave Quarters

The slave quarters is a banked, four-by-one-bay, one-and-one-half-story, side-gable, stone building consisting of two attached, double-pen blocks, each with a central chimney. The original, westerly block consists of two connected rooms and a one-room cellar that is accessible via a hole in the southeast corner of the floor, and the later, easterly block consists of two connected rooms. The foundation and interior and exterior walls are constructed of load-bearing, rubble fieldstone, randomly laid in clay bed-mortar and pointed with lime-based mortar. The stones on the westerly block are generally flatter and lighter in color, and the stones on the easterly block are larger, more squared, and darker in color.

The structural system of the roof is primarily hewn and pegged. Very rough, heavy, hand-hewn ceiling joists run north and south and are embedded directly into the masonry walls. A simplified queen-post truss supports the rafter system at the gable ends and along the room partitions. Very rough, hand-hewn rafters are pegged into a bridle joint at the ridge board and rest on a rough, hand-hewn plate atop the masonry walls. Rafters within the easterly block are rounded and show evidence of tree bark, while the rafters within the older, westerly block are hewn square. Circular-sawn boards, suggesting late-nineteenth- or twentieth-century technology, have been placed across the ceiling joists, creating a loft space above. The flooring in the far west room, which rests atop the cellar, is supported by log posts and circular-sawn floor joists. Floor joists are sawn smooth on the top and bottom and remain rough on the sides. Floor boards appear sawn and are attached to the joists with wire nails, suggesting a late-nineteenth- or twentieth-century reframing of the flooring system.

The roofing system is currently covered in plywood decking with sheets of rolled asphalt. The original roof cladding is visible on the interior of the westerly block and consists of riven sheathing boards, spaced roughly six inches apart, and split wood shakes. The gable ends are clad in riven clapboards secured with hand-wrought nails. The clapboards on the west-facing elevation have been covered over with sheets of plywood but are still visible on the interior.

Three window openings remain on the rear, or north-facing, elevation; the left-bay window opening of the westerly block has been sealed over with stone. The window opening on the west-facing gable end has been sealed over with brick. The cellar window, also west-facing, remains. Two small window openings remain in the gable peaks; both contain metal vents. The original window openings are supported by flat stone lintels on the exterior and wood lintels on the interior, and pegged mortise-and-tenon joints secure the riven wood frames. Existing window openings are currently boarded over with plywood and have no sashes or shutters. A metal hasp found on one south-facing window frame, as well as the absence of parting beads, suggests window openings were originally shuttered and may not have contained sashes with glass panes. Two door openings, one for each room, remain on the façade of the westerly block. Openings are supported by flat stone lintels on the exterior and wood lintels on the interior and have wood frames with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. Circular saw marks on the left-bay frame suggest a late-nineteenth- or twentieth-century replacement. The two door openings on the easterly block were expanded during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century to accommodate farming machinery. The wide openings are supported by the original hand-hewn wall plate and what appear to be iron railroad tracks and wood railroad ties. A metal track for sliding barn doors runs the width of the two openings.

Each two room, double-pen block is arranged around a central hearth. A brick, stretcher-bond chimney with a corbelled cap is centered on the roof of the easterly block, at the junction of the two rooms. The back-to-back hearths and flues are

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constructed of random rubble-stone laid in a bed-mortar of clay. The east-facing hearth is covered in lime plaster, while the west-facing hearth has a lime wash applied directly to the stone. The flues are unplastered. A cinder-block chimney is centered on the roof of the westerly block, at the junction of the two rooms. A cinder-block flue, with ceramic and iron pots, extends from the roof down through the far west room and into the cellar. The stone hearths in the far west room and the cellar have been sealed over in stone and brick, respectively. A large, rectangular, stone lintel remains on the first-story hearth, and a stone-arch lintel remains on the cellar hearth. A stone hearth, with a large, shouldered flue, remains in the east room. Interior walls are partially covered with a lime-based plaster, applied directly to the stone surface, with a white lime-wash coating. Much of the plaster has failed, exposing the stone beneath. With the exception of the far west room, all floors are dirt.

American Foursquare Dwelling

A circa 1930, wood-frame, hipped-roof, American Foursquare dwelling is located just southeast of the slave quarters. The walls are clad in channeled, wood weatherboards, and the roof is topped with standing-seam metal. Fenestration consists of two-over-two, double-hung sash windows on the first and second stories and a four-light casement window in the half-story dormer. A porch of Tuscan columns wraps around the façade and west-facing elevation. Two brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the roof. Although not the original plantation house, the dwelling was constructed on top of the original rough-cut, random rubble, stone foundation. Although the 1930s dwelling falls outside the period of significance, the circa 1800 foundation expresses both the location and shape of the original plantation house.

Shed

A late-twentieth-century wood frame, gable-roofed shed is located to the northwest of the slave quarters. The elongated building consists of three distinct parts: two larger gable-roofed blocks on each end and a smaller gable-roofed block at the center. All sections are covered by a standing-seam metal roof. Large bays open into the side walls.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The circa 1800 stone slave quarters in Arcola, Virginia, is eligible with local significance for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as it contributes significantly to the broad pattern of local history and relates to slavery and African-American heritage, and Criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of both early Virginia architecture and methods of slave quarter construction. The building is one of a dwindling number of extant slave quarters and a rare example of a stone slave quarters in Virginia. While altered, the stone slave quarters at Arcola retains a significant amount of historic fabric and is an excellent and rare example of a late-eighteenth- or early-nineteenth-century slave quarters in Virginia. The exceptional quality of its construction has allowed the building to remain standing far longer than the more traditional wood-frame slave quarters, and it also reflects the vernacular building styles of Loudoun County. The building retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association, is in fair condition, and contributes at a local level to the history of slavery and African-American heritage for the period between 1800 and 1865, encompassing the building's use as a slave quarters prior to the Civil War.

Sited in its original location, on 4.42 acres of former plantation, on a banked site, just downslope from the main house (a non-contributing circa 1930 American Foursquare dwelling that replaced the original house), the slave quarters still evokes the feeling of the late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation life that supported the Loudoun County economy and fueled the institution of slavery. The association of the quarters with the main house continues to convey the dynamics between owner and slave, as well as provide information on the architectural landscape of the plantation. The relatively well-preserved slave quarters has lost little original fabric or character-defining elements, thus retaining integrity of the design, materials, and workmanship that are closely tied to both local and regional building traditions. Little remains of eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century African-American material culture. The Arcola Slave Quarters stands as a rare extant testament to the hardships endured by slaves and the African-American heritage that developed in the environs of plantation life. A non-contributing late-twentieth-century frame shed is located northwest of the slave quarters.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Slavery in Loudoun County

The territory out of which Loudoun County was carved was originally part of a six-million-acre land tract known as the Northern Neck Proprietary, which Charles II granted to seven of his loyal associates in 1649. These proprietors subsequently granted the land to freeholders through their land agent. In 1719, Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax, through marriage and inheritance, gained control over all seven shares of the Northern Neck Proprietary. His family continued to issue grants through the period of the American Revolution. Loudoun County was formed in 1757 out of the southern and western portions of Fairfax County and was one of thirteen counties to be established within the Northern Neck of Virginia.¹

“Class stratification” would characterize the Northern Neck during the eighteenth and much of the nineteenth centuries.² The first land grants were issued in present-day Loudoun County in the early 1700s to an already wealthy planter class from Virginia’s tidewater region. The largest property owners in Loudoun County belonged to this gentry class, which comprised families that would dominate the economic and cultural sphere of Loudoun County for generations. These families continued to marry within their economic and social class, thus accumulating a wealth of money, land, and slaves that assured their continued elite status.³ Many of the early Loudoun County settlers had been residing in Virginia for years, and their acquisition of land in the Northern Neck was merely an extension of the already-wealthy tidewater planter society.⁴

The first planter to officially acquire land in present-day Loudoun County, Captain Daniel McCarthy, a native of Westmoreland County, Virginia, purchased a 2,993-acre tract, in 1709, above the falls of the Potomac River. Within a few years of settlement, McCarthy imported African slaves and established a series of tobacco farms across the Northern Neck counties. By the mid-eighteenth century, McCarthy likely possessed the largest slave holdings in Loudoun County and had set a precedent for the plantation owners that followed.⁵

Tobacco was the county’s primary cash crop in the eighteenth century, at which time the landed gentry were establishing their plantations. The expansive tobacco plantations guaranteed the need for a large labor force. The use of enslaved labor allowed

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plantation owners to control vast land holdings and maximize profits, often while living elsewhere. The planter class maintained significant control over the economy of Loudoun County, staying active in local offices and keeping land prices high, thus ensuring the perpetuation of the slave-based tobacco economy. As late as 1850, farm land still comprised eighty-eight percent of the acreage of Loudoun County, and the value of farm buildings totaled ninety-two percent of the total real-estate value of the entire county.⁶

While the early Loudoun County settlers lived fairly conservatively and self-sufficiently, constructing small log or wood-frame dwellings and producing all their food and other necessities domestically, by the 1760s and 1770s, large accumulations of wealth over generations and the increased availability of market goods allowed more luxurious living conditions. In addition, an overall increase in population and improvement in transportation infrastructure permitted less isolated living conditions within the county. Between the end of the Revolutionary War and the third decade of the nineteenth century, many of the wealthiest absentee land-owners began to officially establish residence in Loudoun County. The planter class brought to the Northern Neck the lavish material lifestyle of the tidewater region, significantly impacting both the physical and cultural landscape of the county.⁷

During the early national period, the Carter family grew to become one of Loudoun County's wealthiest and most powerful elite. Robert Carter, a fourth-generation Virginian, acquired 39,509 acres of land in Loudoun County by 1776. Carter established a tobacco and grain plantation on a 2000-acre tract. He remained an absentee land-owner and hired an overseer to operate the plantation locally. Not until the end of the eighteenth century did the Carter family begin to permanently relocate to Loudoun County.⁸ Carter heirs established several vast plantations in the county, including Oatlands, a sprawling, Federal-style estate that was constructed in the early nineteenth century and that today boasts a restored landscape and several well-preserved buildings.⁹ Oak Hill, the residence of James Monroe, was also founded during this early national period. Monroe acquired the land in Loudoun County in 1808 and completed construction of the main house in 1820. By 1830, Monroe had one of the largest slave holdings in the county.¹⁰

The first blacks, both African and Creole, arrived in Loudoun County in the 1720s. Thomas Lord Culpeper, while governor of Virginia in the 1670s and 1680s, was instructed by the "Lords of Trade and Plantations" to encourage settlers to purchase slaves from the Royal African Company." Thus, two-thirds of the slave population arrived directly from Africa, hailing from such diverse locations as Gambia, Senegal, Guinea, and Madagascar and possessing an even more diverse array of ethnicities.¹¹

Early slave labor primarily consisted of young men, who made up only a small percentage of the Loudoun County population. In 1749, the 138 slaves in Loudoun County accounted for around four percent of the population, and only twelve percent of households in Loudoun County held slaves.¹² Most Loudoun County slave owners in the mid-eighteenth century held fewer than ten slaves; only three owners held more than fifteen slaves; and no household held more than twenty. These numbers were considerably small compared to the slave holdings of other Virginia counties within the tidewater and piedmont regions; slave populations in those counties accounted for thirty to sixty percent of the population.¹³

During the 1750s and 1760s, an increasing number of African women were brought into Loudoun County. By 1760, the slave population swelled to twenty-nine percent and remained roughly one-third of the Loudoun County population through the antebellum period.¹⁴ The introduction of women onto the plantations allowed for the creation of kin-based housing.¹⁵ Although slave marriages and families often transcended the single-family household unit — spanning multiple dwellings or even multiple plantations — the slave quarters was typically the focus of community and identity. Women helped maintain strong African cultural ties, introducing food, religion, dress, song, and dance.¹⁶ Whereas the white plantation culture was heavily dispersed and decentralized and lacking a sense of community, especially due to the high proportion of absentee land-ownership, the plantation slave quarters, or network of quarters, fostered strong African-American traditions. In 1760, fifty-two percent of Loudoun County slaves lived in quarters with absentee owners, and one-seventh of their overseers were black. The relative lack of British influence during this period allowed for the continuation of African culture and often the construction of dwellings that mirrored native African huts.¹⁷

Throughout the antebellum period, the size of slaveholdings changed dramatically. Initially, slave holdings were small, ranging from one to ten slaves. In 1820, roughly eighty-nine percent of Loudoun County slave owners had small holdings. Only seven

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slaves jumped to seventeen percent. Almost half of all slaves in Loudoun County lived on plantations with holdings of more than ten slaves.¹⁸ This concentration of slaves no doubt aided in the perpetuation of African and African-American cultural traditions within the plantation societies.

A decrease in local tobacco production in the nineteenth century led to a surplus of slaves. A steady increase in the population of slaves coupled with the significant decline in soil fertility led to an increase in the exportation of slaves to other states farther south. Although the slave population had dropped dramatically by the outbreak of the Civil War, the free black population had surged.¹⁹ In 1860, the free black population accounted for almost twenty percent of the entire black population of Loudoun County.²⁰ This transformation also led to a new, profitable slave exportation business within Loudoun County.²¹

Lewis Plantation at Arcola

The original plot of land on which the slave quarters was constructed consisted of 1,750 acres granted to Anthony Russell from Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax in 1728.²² On two separate occasions, in 1744 and 1746, respectively, 417 and 383 acres were sold to Vincent Lewis.²³ The history of the Lewis family in the Northern Neck dates back to the seventeenth century.²⁴ The Lewises established themselves as prominent citizens of Loudoun County, owning large holdings of land and serving in a number of local offices.²⁵ A 1760 tithable list for Loudoun County reveals Vincent Lewis as already owning seven slaves.²⁶ During the eighteenth century, various smaller parcels of land were passed down to the Lewis sons.²⁷ Personal property tax lists for Loudoun County illustrate the growing number of slave holdings for Vincent Lewis and his heirs, with dramatic increases after 1800.²⁸ Upon his death in 1796, Vincent Lewis willed 333 acres to his youngest son, Charles.²⁹ Having no children of his own, Charles Lewis willed his land and slaves to his brother James's children upon his death in 1843.³⁰ The land remained within the family, passing through a number of descendents, into the 1980s. In 1982, the land was purchased by developers. The slave quarters now stands on the parcel of land that was owned by Charles Lewis. The 1844 will inventory lists the first and last names of thirty-one slaves, suggesting the existing stone quarters was one of several located on the plantation.³¹ Statistics for slave holdings throughout the nineteenth century indicate that roughly half of Loudoun County slave-holders owned between ten and fifteen slaves. Less than ten percent of slave-holders owned more than thirty slaves, placing the Lewis family in the top tier of plantation owners.³²

After the Civil War, the Lewis family retained ownership of the land, and a family of freed slaves, the Neals, stayed on as tenant farmers.³³ Tenant-farming was common for freed slaves, and a large number of tenant farmers remained in Loudoun County into the twentieth century.³⁴ Although many freed slaves left the area and sought work in urban areas, a number of families remained in Loudoun County and established themselves as farmers, laborers, or artisans.³⁵ The presence of free blacks in Loudoun County prior to the Civil War, as many as 1,200 by 1860, ensured an already rooted community that provided "economic, educational, social, and leadership resources."³⁶ As the plantation culture disintegrated after the war, due to both the loss of slave labor and the over-cultivation of land, land was further partitioned for smaller farms, a diverse array of crops was cultivated, and mills were established along the waterways of the county. Free blacks were integral to the subsequent growth of the county during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and many rose to hold prominent positions within the community.³⁷

Physical evidence suggests the stone slave quarters at Arcola was constructed in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, synchronous with the increase in slave holdings of the Lewis family during this time period. The westerly, banked portion of the building is the original double-pen slave quarters. The easterly portion, also double-pen, was added later and likely had the same fenestration pattern as the original block. The lack of a door or passageway between the two blocks indicates that the later half was constructed either to house a separate family or to contain a separate function, such as kitchen space. The proximity of the quarters to the main house strongly suggests it served as a dwelling for the house slaves. House slaves commonly resided in double-pen, central-chimney, or "saddlebag," quarters just behind the main house, often in the same building as the kitchen.³⁸ Slaves occupying the quarters near the main house performed a number of domestic chores, including cooking, laundry, sewing, cleaning, and gardening.³⁹ These domestic servants often held closer relationships with the plantation owner's family, aiding in the rearing of children, attending to personal needs, and serving as traveling companions.⁴⁰ The juxtaposition of the stone slave quarters to the main house, the former being downhill from the latter, is a visual representation of the complex master/slave relationship that further illustrates the need for African Americans to develop their

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The property was acquired by the Ryan/Mankin family around 1900. It is likely that the transfer of the property out of Lewis family ownership signaled the abandonment of the slave quarters as a dwelling for tenant farmers. The Ryan/Mankin family remained until 1925. After a two year vacancy, the Hutchinson family acquired the property and remained for roughly 40 years. Recollections of a Mr. Louis Hutchinson reveal that the main house burned around 1929 and was rebuilt on the original foundation and that the slave quarters was used for various agricultural and domestic functions, including a garage, storage for tractors and other farming equipment, storage for straw and ice, and the curing of ham. Mr. Hutchinson recalls the easterly entry bays of slave quarters were already expanded to accommodate farming equipment at the time of his family's purchase of the property, thus indicating the quarters was already being used for agricultural purposes by the Ryan/Mankin family.⁴¹

Architectural Context – Plantation Landscape

The design of the plantation landscape, from the siting of the dwelling and outbuildings to the formulation of the transportation networks, expressed the fashions of the time period and the owner's personal tastes and values and played a significant role in cultivating the sub-society in which African-American slave culture developed and evolved.⁴²

Plantations established during the early years of colonial settlement within Virginia were relatively simple and functional. The word plantation itself implied only a parcel of land on which one planted crops for cultivation. Around the mid-eighteenth century, the notion of a plantation had progressed from a functional farmstead to an imposing country estate. The landed gentry class fashioned sprawling manor houses in formal, if not monumental, classically-inspired styles and surrounded them with formal, well-organized landscapes of gardens, arbors, and outbuildings. Even those plantation owners of lesser means attempted to apply stylish architectural features to their modest dwellings. It was not uncommon for a simple, one-and-one-half-story, frame dwelling to be outfitted with a classical portico. Formal roadways were established to draw visitors along prescribed routes that would showcase the material wealth of the owner. The plantation landscape itself often mirrored the order and symmetry of the Georgian, Federal, or Greek Revival architecture that was employed on the main house. Linear arrangements of slave quarters, formal gardens, and orderly circulation systems not only created an efficient, well-organized plantation, they also served to symbolize the rigid hierarchical relationship between the owner, his family, and his slaves.⁴³

Early plantation landscape paintings executed during the period of slavery suggest the self-conscious efforts of the plantation owner to exert his power through the design of his plantation estate and grounds and indicate owner's perception of himself and his plantation. Few artists of the time period included slaves or slave dwellings within any of their landscapes. The views were idealized, romantic, and wistful. Artists overemphasized the main dwelling and its prominent site on the manicured grounds. The formality and order of the landscape is apparent in these works, suggesting both the actual formality and the perceived formality of the plantation.⁴⁴

Within the organized plantation system, slaves themselves established their own communities that often shirked the formality of the plantation landscape, and they ascribed their own cultural significance to the spaces they occupied within the formal landscape. Often they formulated their own road systems that countered the formally-established plantation road network, or they landscaped the yards of their own dwellings in an informal manner to suit their own tastes. The slave quarters itself was often at the apex of this slave landscape. "Surviving the American plantation system required enslaved Africans to locate spaces that were intimate and often obscure, where they could cultivate aesthetic sensibilities within and beyond the limitations of slavery. Enslaved Africans learned through ancestral memory, artistic innovation, and their own intellectual genius to identify safe and sacred 'spaces of blackness' in order to resist domination and protect their new sense of identity in the new world of the United States.... The slave cabin is its own gallery."⁴⁵

Like the quarters at Arcola, the dwellings for domestic slaves were often sited in close proximity to the main house. One or more of these house quarters were erected alongside the kitchens, smokehouses, icehouses, chicken coops, dairies, and other outbuildings that were important to the daily preparation of meals and general upkeep for the plantation estate. Together these outbuildings defined the boundaries of the plantation yard, the primary space in which domestic slaves performed their many household chores. While the yard was under the close eye of the plantation owner, the small area was often considered slave territory. Domestic slaves spent a considerable amount of time in attached kitchens preparing the day's meals and were often quartered in lofts directly above the cooking space. Not until the eighteenth century was it customary for kitchens to be located

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increasingly demanded clearer definitions of status, position, and authority.⁴⁷ Whereas the move of the kitchen, and subsequently the domestic slaves, out-of-doors is seen as another step toward chattel slavery, it was also a move that permitted the domestic slaves to further separate from their owners and establish their own identity and space.

Architectural Context – Slave Quarters Design

The architecture of the slave quarters in Arcola is dichotomous; it is, in a sense, both typical and unique. Primary and secondary research suggests that relatively few slave quarters were of masonry construction. A discursive study of real property advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette* revealed that roughly ninety percent of early Virginia houses and outbuildings were log or wood-frame.⁴⁸ Oral histories from former slaves and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century travel writings support these findings. A comparative study of previously-surveyed slave quarters, as documented in the early twentieth century by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Historic American Building Survey (HABS), found that stone slave quarter construction was generally concentrated in the Piedmont regions that saw heavy German, Scots-Irish, and Quaker settlement. These settlers, primarily from eastern Pennsylvania, brought traditional stone building techniques into areas already favorable to the use of local field stone. The Loudoun Valley, west of the Catocin Mountains in Loudoun County, resonates with vernacular masonry construction. Three stone slave quarters were identified in the region in the 1930s and appear similar in design and construction to the slave quarters at Arcola. Additionally, the valley contains a vast number of small stone dwellings constructed by modest farmers during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries that closely resemble the design and masonry techniques of the slave quarters in Arcola. “Masons raised most Loudoun Valley stone homes by laying field stones (rubble stones) on one another — not in distinct courses— in a bed of clay, then pointed the exterior with lime mortar.... They plastered interior walls on the main floor, and whitewashed cellar and loft walls.”⁴⁹ A number of these stone structures were one- or two-story, side-gable, two-room plans with no central hall and no architectural ornamentation.

While stone construction is rare, slave quarters situated close to the main house often received a more aesthetically pleasing exterior treatment.⁵⁰ Plantation owners at times looked towards honoring local building customs in their design and construction of the house quarters.⁵¹ The readiness of field stone and clay from the creek adjacent to the slave quarter and the stone building traditions of Loudoun County residents combine to create a building that is deeply rooted in the vernacular. Unlike the previously surveyed examples, the Arcola slave quarters only incorporates stone construction into the foundation and the first-story walls. The upper half-story is sheathed in clapboards. The entire wood-frame structural system of the roof is quite typical of early building techniques in Virginia. While the rough riven and hand-hewn timbers evoke the rough, simple construction of slave quarters and other plantation outbuildings, the techniques were also widely employed for primary residential buildings throughout the colonies. In fact, the entire form of the building is rooted in early American building traditions. Like the simple stone buildings in the Loudoun Valley, many seventeenth- and eighteenth-century dwellings contained just one or two rooms and a central or end chimney.⁵²

As a slave quarters, however, the design of the Arcola building is distinct. Whether stone, brick, log, or frame, slave quarters are generally recognizable by their one- or one-and-one-half-story, side-gable, single- or double-pen plan; their organization around either a central or exterior hearth; their dirt floor; their rough, unfinished construction; and their cramped, crude living space. The relationship of the Arcola quarters to the main house is also distinctive of the architectural landscape of the plantation and certifies the use of the stone building as a dwelling for slaves.

Archaeological Potential

Field inspection of the site was conducted on May 16, 2007, and was accomplished by means of a pedestrian survey that involved complete surface examination of the grounds surrounding the slave quarters and the main house. Surface examination of the grounds indicates that the landscape between the two standing structures as well as the yards surrounding each structure is generally undisturbed and has not been affected by activities associated with the sod farm that is currently occupying the property. Likewise, although the slave quarters has been adapted for use as a barn over the years, the floor within the slave quarters itself also appears to be relatively undisturbed. Based on these observations, the grounds and the slave quarters itself have the potential for intact archaeological deposits that may address questions about the history and construction of the slave quarters that are unclear from evidence in the standing structure and documentary sources.

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identified within the yard immediately surrounding the structure or within the structure itself has the potential to confirm the function(s) of the building and the activities that took place there. Any intact archaeological remains associated with the slave quarters may also have the potential to illuminate the poorly documented history of the daily lives and labor of the slave women who were central to the operation and maintenance of the main house. Archaeological assessment of the property has the potential to identify additional slave dwellings or the plantation domestic complex. A systematic archaeological study of the yard and the foundation surrounding the main house may confirm the location of the original plantation house as well as identify the remains associated with the historic occupation of the property.

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GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Arcola Slave Quarters is referred to on the Loudoun County tax maps as PIN #163468915, tax map #101////////42A with 4.47 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses the acreage currently under the ownership of the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. The acreage includes the extant slave quarters, the single dwelling, and a portion of the original Lewis plantation.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

All photographs are common to:

PROPERTY: Arcola Slave Quarters

LOCATION: Loudoun County, Virginia

DHR FILE NO: 053-0984

PHOTOGRAPHER: Elizabeth Mary André

DATE: June 19, 2007

ALL DIGITAL IMAGES ARE STORED AT: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

PHOTO: 1 OF 11

VIEW: Façade, Looking North

PHOTO: 2 OF 11

VIEW: East Elevation, Looking West

PHOTO: 3 OF 11

VIEW: Façade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest

PHOTO: 4 OF 11

VIEW: East and North Elevations, Looking Southwest

PHOTO: 5 OF 11

VIEW: Dry Creek Bed, Looking North

PHOTO: 6 OF 11

VIEW: Stone Lintel, Façade

PHOTO: 7 OF 11

VIEW: Ceiling Joists and Rafters

PHOTO: 8 OF 11

VIEW: Hearth and Flue

PHOTO: 9 OF 11

VIEW: Window

PHOTO: 10 OF 11

VIEW: Cellar

PHOTO: 11 OF 11

VIEW: Main House, Façade, Looking South

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- ³ Ibid, 12.
- ⁴ Ibid, 14.
- ⁵ Ibid, 12.
- ⁶ Ibid, 186.
- ⁷ Ibid, 21-2.
- ⁸ Ibid, 14.
- ⁹ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, "Oatlands National Register Nomination Form," (On file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1969).
- ¹⁰ Lynn A. Beebe, "Oak Hill National Register Nomination Form," (On file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1985).
- ¹¹ Stevenson, 166-7.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Ibid., 171-2.
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Steven C. Pullins, et al., *Southall's Quarter: Archaeology at an Eighteenth-Century Slave Quarter in James City County*, (William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research, 2003), 10.
- ¹⁶ Stevenson, 171-2.
- ¹⁷ Ibid, 168-72.
- ¹⁸ Ibid, 176-7.
- ¹⁹ Ibid, 175-6.
- ²⁰ James W. Head, *History and Comprehensive Description of Loudoun County, Virginia*, (Baltimore: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1908), 85.
- ²¹ Stevenson, 175-6.
- ²² Northern Neck Land Grants B, p. 204.
- ²³ Fairfax County Deed Book A, pp. 293-4; Fairfax County Deed Book B, pp. 149-51.
- ²⁴ Arlean Hill, Interview, June 2007.
- ²⁵ John T. Phillips, *The Historian's Guide to Loudoun County, Virginia*, (Leesburg, Virginia: Goose Creek Publications, 1996).
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- ²⁷ Fairfax County Deed Book C, p. 698; Loudoun County Deed Book L, p. 117; Loudoun County Deed Book P, p. 45; Loudoun County Deed Book W, p. 322; Loudoun County Deed Book X, p. 287.
- ²⁸ Personal Property Tax Lists for Loudoun County, Virginia, 1787-1850.
- ²⁹ Loudoun County Will Book E, pp. 287-8.
- ³⁰ Loudoun County Will Book 2A, p. 328.
- ³¹ Loudoun County Will Book 2A, p. 329.
- ³² Stevenson, 177.
- ³³ 1870 U.S. Census, p. 23.
- ³⁴ James W. Head, *History and Comprehensive Description of Loudoun County Virginia*, (Washington, D.C.: Park View Press, 1908), 101.
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- ³⁶ Stevenson, 162.
- ³⁷ Hill, Interview, June 2007.
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- ⁴¹ Louis Hutchinson and Philip Marshall, Interview, February 22, 1999.
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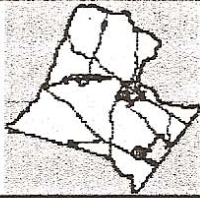
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