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RECORD NO.	VHIR/22/0669
REPORTER	Morton, Susan R.
TITLE	Folly Castle : survey report, 1937 Feb. 19 / research made by Susan Rogers Morton. 3 leaves.
NOTE	Map location number: PW82
NOTE	Additional report with same map location number: VHIR/22/0730
NOTE	Class: Site (Home)
NOTE	Building date: 1769
NOTE	Number of stories: 1.5
NOTE	Building material: Frame
NOTE	Location: 6 miles northwest of Manassas on Rt. 622.
NOTE	Primary owners: John Young, George Brown family, John Leachman, J.E. Coverstone
NOTE	The house burned in 1899, but the present house was built on the same foundation and used the original chimneys. There was some fighting here during both battles of Manassas and the house served as a hospital. There is also a cemetery here, but few tombstones remain and is now pastureland.
NOTE	Includes description of the house, interior and site.
NOTE	Includes abstracts of title.
OTHER FORMAT	Also available on microfilm.
ISSUING BODY	This write-up is a part of the Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History.
REPRODUCTION	Computer file. Richmond, Va. : Library of Virginia, 1998. 3 image files.
SUBJECT	Folly Castle (Prince William County, Va. : Dwelling)
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SUBJECT	Abstracts of title -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.
ADDED ENTRY	Dogan, Mary, informant.
ADDED ENTRY	Ritnell, Mrs., informant.
ADDED ENTRY	Virginia Historical Inventory Project.
ADDED ENTRY	Virginia Conservation Commission. Division of History.
ADDED ENTRY	United States. Works Progress Administration.
LINK FIELD	http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/VHI/html/22/0669.html -- ReportHome Page



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Folly Castle

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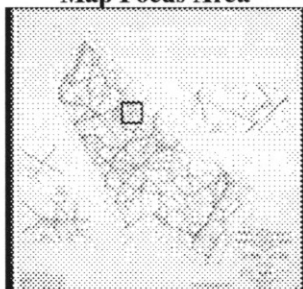
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(Prince William County - Dwellings)

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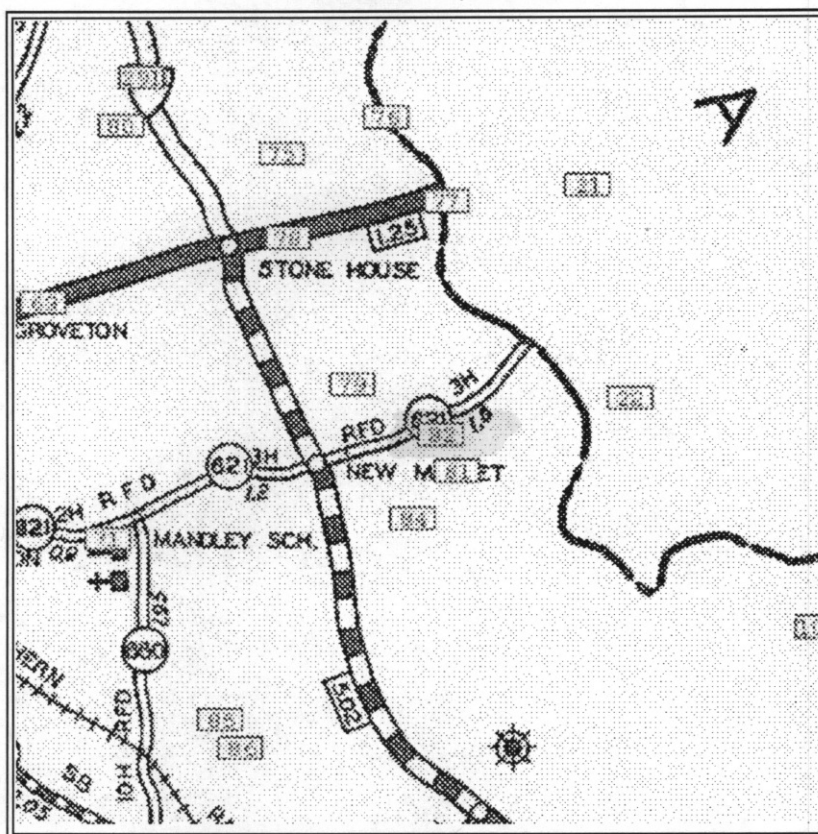
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82. Folly Castle

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

82

COUNTY: Prince William

CLASS: Site (Home)

--- " FOLLY CASTLE " ---

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by
Susan Rogers Morton,
Haymarket, Virginia.

February 19, 1937.

1. SUBJECT:

" Folly Castle "

2. LOCATION:

6 miles northwest of Manassas, Virginia, on Route # 622, on west side of road.

3. DATE:

1769.

4. OWNERS:

Deed of lease and release are recorded (Deed Book R, page 127, Court House, Manassas) from John Young and Margaret his wife to George Brown, 230 acres. And also between Mann Page George Brown, 202 acres which was entailed to his sons John Henry and William Brown. The rent being 160 pounds of tobacco, Deed Book X, page 42, Court House, Manassas, Virginia. About 1830 the place was bought by William Lewis, and the Browns moved to Stafford. There does not seem to be a record of the Lewis-Brown transfer. In 1867 it was bought by John Leachman, a son-in-law of Mr. Lewis. It remained in the man family until his death in 1913, when it was sold to Mr. J. E. Coverstone of Manassas, Virginia, the present owner. It has been rented to various tenants for some years.

5. DESCRIPTION:

The old house was destroyed by fire in 1899, but the chimneys were so well built that the present house was built on the same foundation, using the original chimneys without any repairs. It is these old chimneys that attract ones attention to the house from a distance, for they are remarkably fine. There are twin chimneys at the north end of the house, but at the south end with a base of twenty feet, and two windows set in one, one on the first floor and one on the second floor. From someone who spent her girlhood in the old house I was able to get a very accurate description of the house. It was a story-and-a-half house with dormer windows, central hall, and ceiling down stairs, all ten feet. There was a long drawing room that took up one side of the house and had some very beautiful hand-carved panelling, and in the hall was a Grecian border six inches in depth that was very finely wrought. Mr. Lewis added rooms and at the time that the house was burned, it contained fifteen rooms, and basement.

There are only a few of the old trees left, but the house was once set in a grove of locusts and sycamores. Time and storm have taken some of them (sic) but have left some. The trees

to be seen. There is one old log building, evidently a cabin, and the ruins of several others and the old well house.

There is a pear tree to the north of the house, near the branch that runs through the place, that is said to have been brought from England by Mr. Brown, who had a fine orchard, this tree is undoubtedly extremely old, but each year puts forth a few blossoms.

Until two years ago, when it was cut down, there was a large locust in the yard that had several bullets imbedded in it from the Second battle of Manassas.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

As this was in the line of some of the fighting during the War, there are many stories connected with it of that time. Some of which are mere legend. No doubt a shell did tear a top from one of the massive gate posts during the Second Battle, and the house was used as a hospital during the First and Second Battles of Manassas.

There is an old cemetery on the place, a few hundred yards to the east of the house; in what is now an open field, it once was surrounded with trees, but nothing remains now, but a few stumps and cattle graze over the graves. There are only plain field stones with no inscriptions, so it tells very little of the ones who rest there.

After the War Between the States, there was a French artist (no one seems to remember his name) who spent several months at "Folly Castle" painting scenes of the battlefield for a cyclorama, and also painted "Folly Castle", which he gave to his host, but it was destroyed in the fire together with many fine old antiques.

7. ART:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Mrs. Mary Dogen, Manassas, Virginia.
Mrs. Ritnell, Manassas, Virginia.

Court Records, Clerk's Office.
Prince William County, Virginia.