

Arch. descr. ①

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Effingham is a large, Tidewater-style, 2-story, mid-18th century, ^{gable-roofed} frame residence on a high basement. The house ^{is} remarkable, not only for its architecture, interiors, and fine state of preservation, but for the relatively large number of accessory buildings that have been preserved or adapted and sit in close association with the house. Located in the predominately rural, agricultural Nokesville area, north of Cedar Run, Effingham is the seat of a large, 680-acre cattle-breeding farm. A old stone blacksmith ^{shop} private drive about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long leads past an [^] to the house and agricultural buildings that now comprise the farm.

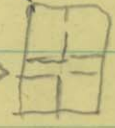
The heavy-timber-constructed frame house has been described in various books on the County's or region's architecture, and ^{been} included in ~~several~~ ^{two} earlier architectural surveys, namely the WPA survey of 1936 and the HABS survey of 1959. A two-story, central-hall, double-pile plan house on a raised

basement, Effingham is covered with wide, beaded weatherboards. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a massive, exterior, brick, double chimney at either end, joined by a pent closet. The bricks in the chimney are laid in flemish bond. The partly rebuilt chimneys each have tiled weatherings (one set per stack) and corbelled caps. ~~The chimneys have been rebuilt in parts~~ The five-bay facade reflects an interior central hall plan. Architrave trim surrounds the doors and $\frac{9}{9}$ and $\frac{6}{6}$ replacement sliding sash windows, which are flanked by louvered shutters. A tall porch added by the present owners spans the front or west side. The giant portico is supported by 12-inch-square pillars and surmounted by a balustrade. The open, flagstone porch on the rear, also added by the present owners, spans only the rear entrance. Both the front and rear doors are reproduction, double-hung, paneled doors with a single-pane overhead. The doors are attached with reproduction

H-L hinges.

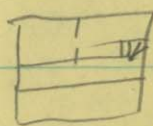
The interior contains some ornate
woodwork, both reproduction-style and
original. The central hall has paneled
wainscoting and architrave trim. The
doorways are surmounted by heavy
mouldings. The paneling ^{on the north wall} of the double living room,
or northeast and northwest rooms, was
found in the attic and installed in
~~this room~~ by the present owners. The ^{early} ~~early~~ ^{a corner cupboard, mantels, and possibly paneling,} ~~woodwork~~ ^{room's} was ~~purchased~~
bought by the Duponts in 1936. A
reproduction Georgian-style corner
cupboard in the dining room, ^{or southwest room} was
copied by a local cabinetmaker
from a photograph of the cupboard
taken in its original location in
the northwest corner of the first floor north-
west room. The mantel in the

dining room is a late Federal- or

→  → early Victorian-style piece having
a moulded shelf supported by
moulded colonettes. The oak floors
in the first floor were laid on top
of the old floors. Upstairs, the

floors are of random or medium-width pine. There is a concealed stairway on either side of the central hall.

Rising along the hall's north wall is a winding stair, while there is a straight stair from the kitchen along the hall's south wall. An



ornately-carved pedimented doorway exists between the hall and the rear sitting room, or northeast room.

According to one source, the crown moulding in the hall, dining room, and living rooms is original to the house. On the second floor are the central hall and three or four bedrooms. There is a finished attic.



According to ~~some~~ photographs taken in 1936, Effingham once had a larger collection of out buildings, including a kitchen, ^{and some log cabins} a weaving ^{frame coach house and} cottage, none of which now exist. The old out buildings remaining standing (and well-preserved) include a small, rebuilt, stone blacksmith shop and tack house, a frame former servants' quarters,

now serving as a guest home and office, and a frame smoke house. There is a large modern ~~large~~ complex of agricultural buildings southwest of the house. One or two tenant houses also exist on the property. The

Alexander family cemetery can be seen north of the house. It is surrounded by a low stone wall and contains some very recent burials in addition to those recorded in the WPA guide.