



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
SURVEY FORM

File no. 76-77
Negative no(s). 4919, 4920

Historic name Falkland	Common name
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number Cerro Gordo Road, Gainesville, VA 22069	
USGS Quad Thoroughfare Gap	Date or period c1825-1850; 1952
Original owner John Hill Carter	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residence	
Present owner Robert Alvey, E.R. Conner, Jr.	Source of name Unknown
Present owner address c/o George Kelley	Source of date Architectural evidence; date stones.
4608 Sanders Lane, Catharpin, Va.	Stories 2 stories; 1 1/2 stories, on a high basement.
Present use Residence	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation & walls.
Acreage 52 acres (Estate was formerly 536 acres)	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs House and grounds in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ☒ no ☐

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Located at the end of a mile-long private road north of Buckland, an early 19th century industrial and turnpile-era town on the Prince William-Fauquier County border, Falkland is a stately, large, attractive, early 19th century Federal-style manor house. It is situated on a high, flat rise in the foothills of the Bull Run Mountains, a few miles south of Thoroughfare Gap and east of Broad Run. The spacious grounds include a 1-acre English garden planted in three terraces and containing many mature boxwoods, Magnolias and other trees, and surrounded by brick and stone walls. The reddish-gold-colored stone used in constructing this house is very beautiful and unusual, compared to the relatively common red sandstone seen in other older buildings in Prince William County. The craftsmanship that went into the building of Falkland, which is in very good condition, is rarely seen. The interiors, though probably not entirely original, reflect the taste of a cabinet-maker who was active in the Buckland area in the 19th century. Altogether, this well-built house, with its handsome, if austere and stylized interiors, and the idyllic setting, give Falkland a high priority for State and Federal listing.

Falkland is a large, two-story, three-bay, double-pile, stone farmhouse resting on a high basement. There are two corresponding 1 1/2-story stone wings attached to the main house, the former kitchen on the southwest end, probably built at the same time as the main house; and a recently-built 1 1/2-story wing on the northeast end which contains the present kitchen, a garage, and bedrooms. The main house has an interior, double chimney on the southwest end, while the 1 1/2-story older wing has a single interior chimney.

The stone used in Falkland's construction (in both the original sections and the 1950's addition) is reddish-tan-colored sandstone, supposedly from a quarry on the property. It is laid up in regular courses of shaped blocks (almost ashlar), and has narrow, raised mortar

Interior inspected? Yes.

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Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

Falkland is one of the few remaining manor houses in Prince William County that is associated with the Carter family which, as a result of the 18th century land acquisition practices of Robert "King" Carter, who was for some time proprietary agent for Lady Catherine Fairfax, was one of the dominant families to shape western Prince William County in the 19th century.

The Cloverland plantation, from which Falkland Farm was carved, still exists, just north of Falkland. Though the Cloverland manor house, a frame, Greek Revival-style house with its main entrance in the gable end, is very dilapidated, much could be learned about 19th century, rural, piedmont Northern Virginia plantation and early 20th century farming life through the preservation and study of these two places.

Until recently, Falkland Farm (The origin of the name Falkland is unknown.) contained about 500 acres; however, the farm acres are now being subdivided, and the house, now for sale, will be surrounded by a parcel of about 80 acres. Falkland was once included in the over 2,000-acre plantation Cloverland, which abuts old Falkland's northern boundary. Cloverland belonged to Charles Carter (1783-1806) of Corotoman and Shirley. He had received the estate--part of the 12,285-acre Broad Run Tract patented in 1724 by Robert "King" Carter--from his father, Charles Carter, one of "King" Carter's sons. Edward Carter (1767-1806), builder of Cloverland, was a co-founder of both Buckland (1798) and Haymarket (1799).

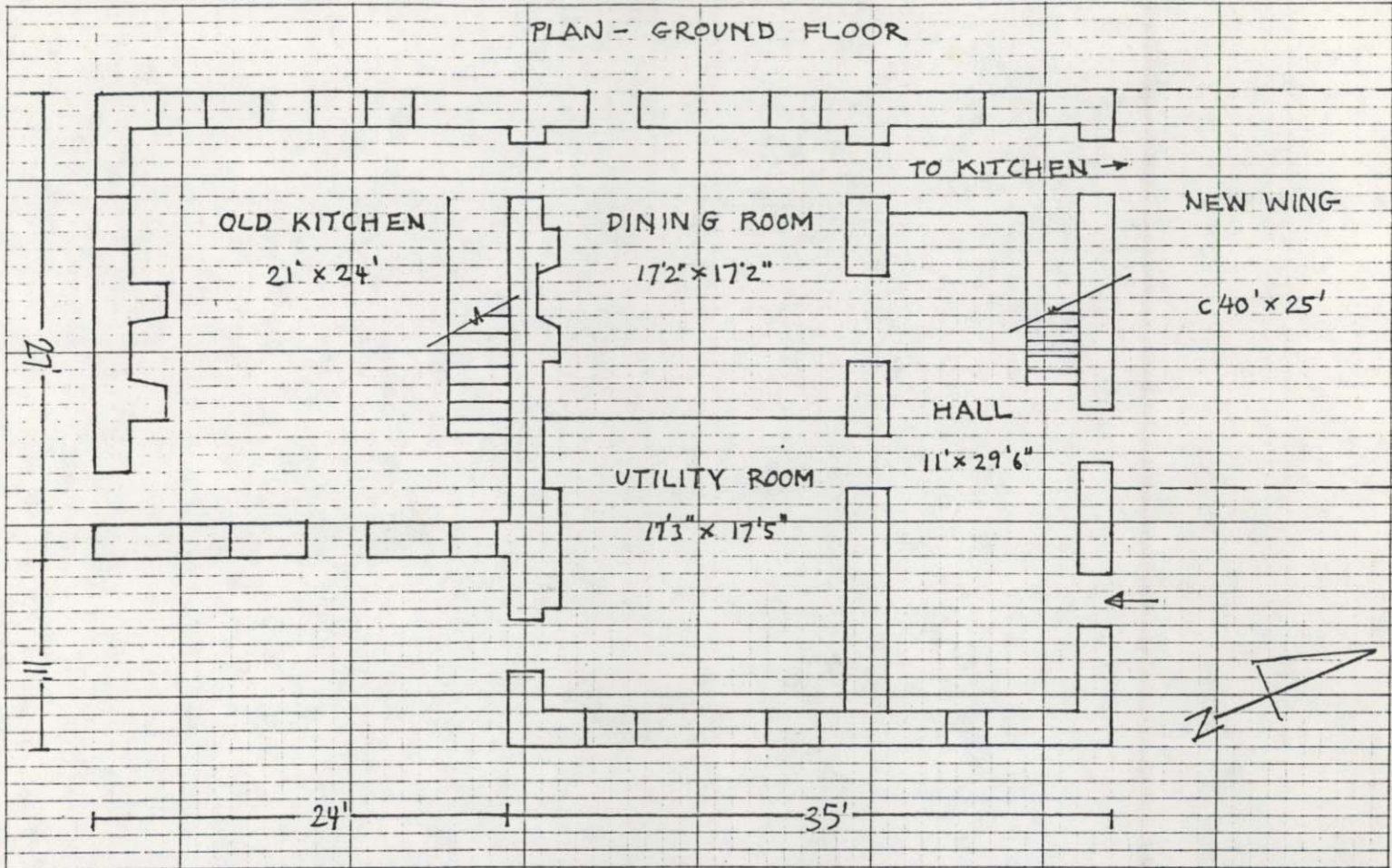
Falkland was probably built during the second quarter of the 19th century by John Hill

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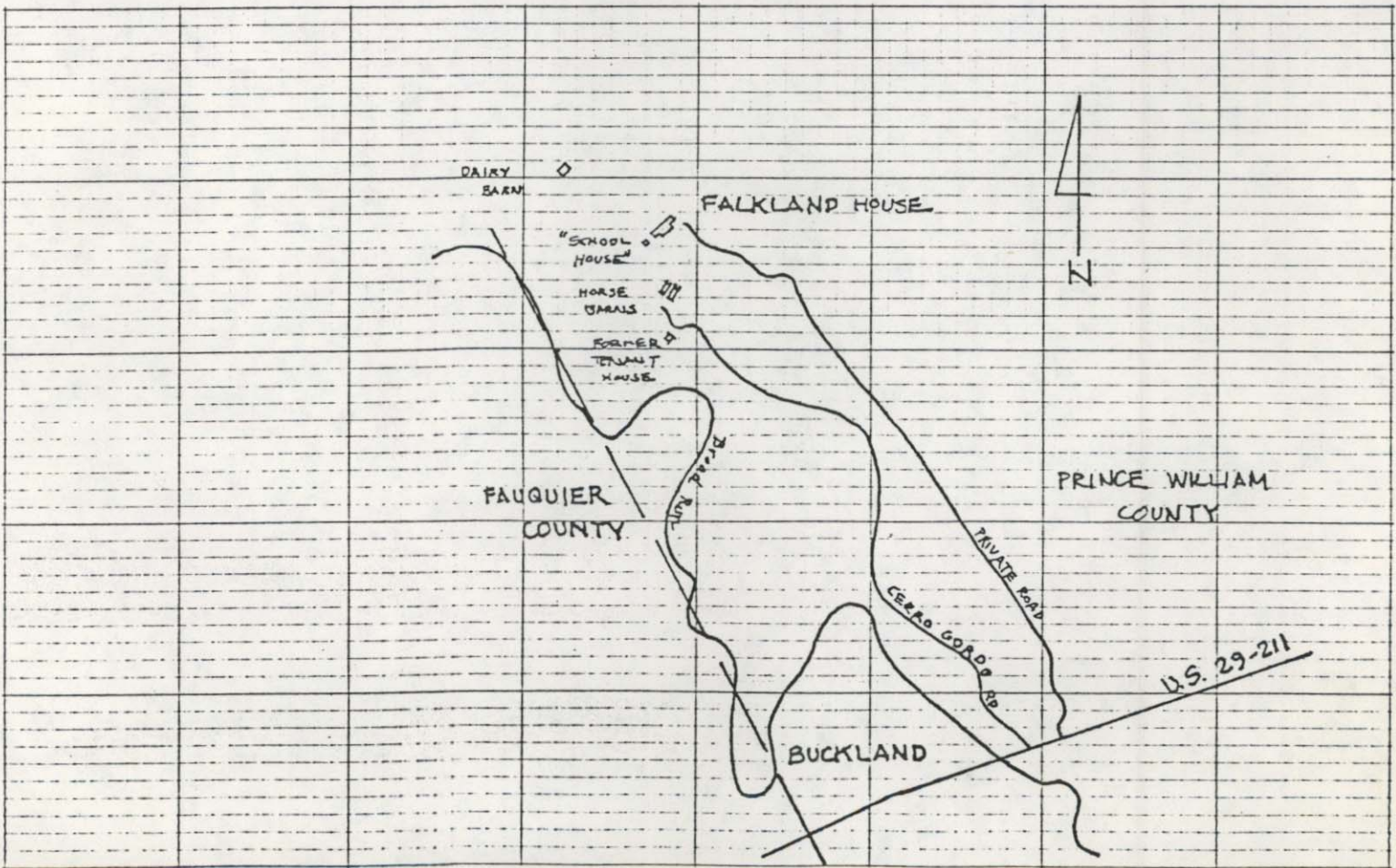
Sources and bibliography
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)
W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp.
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), p. 72; (Continued, page three) 170-171;
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed E.R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum; Mrs. Martha Leitch, Buckland

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

FALKLAND
(Cont.)

joints. The earlier sand-lime mortar has been repaired with portland cement. The walls are 3 feet thick at the base, tapering to 1 1/2 feet in the attic.

The house faces southeast. The probable original front entrance, a raised entrance on the first floor of southeast side, is not now being used, having been converted to a balcony; and instead, the present main entrance is on the basement level of the northeast end of the central pile.

The architecture of Falkland is apparently Federal style with some Greek Revival features. Falkland has a moulded cornice and a pedimented gable. The date 1844 is carved in a stone under the northeast gable. The exterior door and window trim is plain. The windows, 6/6 replacement sliding sash, have stone sills and keyed jack arches. The relatively low-pitched roof has no dormers, except for some recently-added rear dormers in the 1 1/2-story wings. The present front entrance (possibly installed during the 1950's building period) is plain, almost austere. The large, four-paneled door is flanked by three-pane sidelights and is surrounded by a shouldered architrave surround having simple box trim. The former front entrance is a double, multiple-pane glassed door with a plain, box trim surround and a four-pane overhead. Shutters are present on this entrance, and on all the windows.

The main hall in this side-passage-plan house is very impressive. It is a long, wide room containing a graceful stair which rises, with a stepped, continuous rail, along the northeast wall. On this level, the spacious hall opens onto two drawing rooms divided by large folding doors and each having a stone-lined fireplace.

The main stair begins in the basement as an open-string, a single-flight, only 35" wide. At the basement level, the stair has a turned, moulded newel, an elliptical rail, and plain, turned balusters, two to a tread. The stair at the first floor level, in the main hall, is 45" wide. It is an open-string, two-flight stair with a single landing. The stair has a heavy, turned newel on a square base and is topped by a squashed finial. It has an elliptical rail, plain, turned balusters (two per tread), and a scroll-decorated stair skirt. The trim in the hall is plain, wide, box trim with a low, pedimented lintel over the doors and windows. The interior hall doors contain two vertically-placed panels, mortise locks, and brass knobs.

The kitchen, dining room, and paneled library or study are on the ground floor. The new wing contains the kitchen; beyond that, in the main core, is the dining room; and beyond that is the pine-paneled study or library. Actually, this last room may earlier have been the kitchen, judging by the large fireplace. The mantel in the dining room has a plain shelf, plain jambs, and a plain frieze. French doors in the dining room open onto a terrace on the house's northwest side. Similarly, on the front wall of the former kitchen are French doors that open onto a patio. There is a utility room in the front part of the basement of the main house. This room may once have been a sitting room, for there is a 7-foot-wide sealed fireplace in this room. The utility room, which contains the furnace and laundry machines, has a concrete floor, measures about 17' x 17', and is finished with wallboard and plaster. The doors and windows are new, reproduction-style replacements.

On the first, or main, floor, in addition to the large side-passage hall and the double parlor or drawing rooms, is the master bedroom in the new wing. It contains a reproduction mantel. The drawing rooms in the older section have architrave door and window trim, crown mouldings, and simple mantels--a plain shelf supported by plain jambs, and a plain frieze.

The trim in the dining room, in both halls, and in the bedrooms in the new wing is very plain, wide, box trim with a low, pedimented lintel and a shouldered architrave.

The mantel in the basement of the old kitchen wing is a Georgian-style reproduction (?) mantel. It has a moulded shelf atop a console which is supported by a shouldered architrave surround. There is a carved fret design between the shelf and the console. The mantel and surround are flanked by fluted pilasters, running from floor to ceiling, each topped by a carved medallion. The stair in the old wing is a straight, open-string, single flight with wide treads and low risers. It has a turned newel; simple, turned balusters, three to a tread; an elliptical rail terminating in a squashed finial; and a scroll-trimmed stair skirt. This room is completely pine-paneled.

On the second floor are five bedrooms, including one in the new wing, one in the old wing, and three (one quite small) in the central core. The two large bedrooms in the central core have plain mantels, similar to those in the drawing rooms on the main floor and in the dining room, and architrave trim. These rooms have older, six-panel moulded doors with old box locks containing the inscription "No. 16 improved lock."

The only significant outbuilding at Falkland is a small, frame-constructed, 1 1/2-story "schoolhouse," located just beyond the old kitchen end of the main house. This gable-roofed structure rests on a stone foundation and has a 1-story shed-roofed frame addition. Now undergoing some repairs, the schoolhouse, which could also be used as a guest house, has an exterior brick chimney. The house is covered with weatherboards and has plain, single-bead exterior trim around its 6/6 sliding sash reproduction windows and six-panel moulded (replacement?) door. Inside, the single room is covered with waist-high wainscoting and has a simple chair-rail. The mantel on the first floor is a plain shelf with plain jambs. The interior trim is single-beaded plain, box trim. There is an attic reached by a steep, winding, enclosed

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ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

FALKLAND
(Cont.)

stair. The floors, 2nd floor, are made of wide (cl2"-17") pine boards.

There is a large dairy barn northwest of the house, and two opposing horse barns southwest of the house. These latter are large, multiple-stall barns, measuring 110' x 21', with box stalls, tack rooms, machinery storage and full loft space above.

A tenant house, west of the main house and at the end of Cerro Gordo Road, is described on a separate survey sheet. This house, together with a small parcel, were recently separated from the Falkland farm and sold.

HISTORY (Cont.)

Carter, grandson of Charles Carter of Shirley and Corotoman, and son of Edward Carter. John Hill Carter was born at Cloverland, and until a few years ago his remains, along with the grave of his first wife Susan B. Turner, were in the Cloverland Cemetery. Their tombstones were recently moved to a Carter family cemetery in Fauquier County. Falkland's most notorious resident was Nick (Loughborough) Carter, an impulsive, violent, murderous man who allegedly rode with Col. John S. Mosby. After the War, Nick Carter, under arrest for some outrage he had committed, fled to Texas. In the early 1900's, Falkland was a large dairy farm, shipping milk and produce by train to Washington, D.C.

In the 1950's and 1960's, Falkland was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Malevich, who added the east wing. Until its recent sale, the Seventh Day Adventists owned Falkland. The present owners bought the house and 536 acres in 1980. They have redecorated the house, improved the grounds, repaired the road leading to Falkland and intend to subdivide the former farm, selling the house with a reasonable amount of land.

PUBLISHED SOURCES (BOOKS, ARTICLES, ETC., WITH BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA)
(Cont.)

Templeman, Eleanor Lee and Nan Netherton, Northern Virginia Heritage (cl966), p. 181.

Leitch, Martha, "Buckland, Prince William County, Virginia," in Echoes of History, Nov. 1973.

