

Truro Plantation was built on part of the Foote quarter (c 7,500 acres) of the Brent Town Grant which descended to Richard Foote III, grandson of Richard Foote the proprietor. Of the original Brent Town grantees--Nicholas Hayward, Robert Bristow, George Brent, and Richard Foote--only the descendants of Richard Foote established permanent residences on the land they had inherited in the Brent Town Division. Coming from Chotank Creek in Tidewater Stafford County, the Footes brought with them Alexanders, Fitzhughes, and Stuarts, and they attempted to build at Brent Town a group of large estates with stately manor homes and English gardens, separated from one another by woodlands, rolling fields, and pastures.

The Brent Town Grant was divided in about 1741 into four equal parts by the heirs of the original proprietors. Truro plantation was begun by Richard Foote III (1704 - c 1762) in about 1745, on a 2,000 acre estate carved out of the Foote quarter. Though the site of Truro has been identified and its foundation located, no description exists of the house, which is said to have been destroyed by

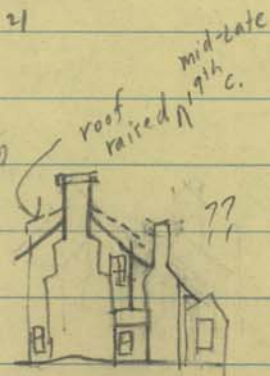
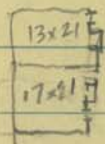
Union Troops during the Civil War. It has been suggested that Truro, though ^{built earlier,} possibly resembled Effingham, a 2-story, gable-roofed frame house with a pair of brick chimneys at each end.

Built in mid-18th century by Col. William Alexander on an estate carved out of the Hayward quarter of the Brent Town Tract, Effingham was later owned by William Foote.

At sometime between 1763 and 1779 (c1766), Richard Foote IV (1729-1779) enlarged an old log house at Truro by adding to it

(home for Truro Plantation) by adding a two-story wing and connecting the two brick end chimneys (the existing one on the log house and the new chimney on the two-story addition).

cont.



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Richard Foote died in 1779 before his 50th birthday, leaving a wife, Margaret, and five small children. Margaret remarried in about 1780, this time to John Thornton Fitzhugh. They had five children. The first, John Fitzhugh, was born at Touro in 1781. John Thornton Fitzhugh apparently lived at Touro until the fifth Richard Foote came of age in 1789. Then Fitzhugh and Margaret (Richard's mother and stepfather) probably moved to Fairview, Fitzhugh's estate. Fairview was a 1,500 acre plantation north of Touro carved out of the Brent Town Grant.

Richard Foote V, who had inherited Touro, married in 1803 at age 35. Foote married his cousin Helen Gibbons Stuart. Sometime between 1803 and 1825, Richard Foote constructed a new house about 15 feet in front of the then-existing enlarged log house. The new house, two stories tall, with measuring 32½ feet by 20½ feet, was a frame-built, side-hall plan house resting on a high basement. The south facade resembles Eppingham and Pilgrim's Rest.

Heat was provided by a single, exterior brick end chimney. In 1900, according to a published photograph of the house, there were small, one-story, pedimented, gable-roofed porches covering the front and side entrances. Foote named the new home "Hazelwood." Foote and his wife Helen were the parents of seven children, five of whom survived childhood. Soon after the birth of their last child in 1815, Helen Foote died and was buried in the family graveyard at Hazelwood. The cemetery also contains the graves of Richard Foote IV, Maria Foote, and the two children of Richard I and Helen who died in childhood. Richard Foote married Lucy Taliaferro in 1815. She died in 1819. Foote married Ann Steward in 1826. Foote died in 1834, and his heirs sold Hazelwood to George Colvin, the grandfather of Miss Callie Colvin, the present owner. In about 1845, according to a manuscript history of the house, a two-story wing measuring 15 feet by 20 feet

was built to connect the enlarged log house with the main house.

George M. Colvin, who died in 1841, is buried in the Hazelwood/Touro graveyard.