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Second Oldest House for Sale

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One of Prince William County's oldest homes is being sold because the owner feels that as a senior citizen, she is living in a house larger than she needs.

The residence of Virginia S. Colvin, known as Pilgrim's Rest, is being offered as part of an 82-acre tract for \$400,000. The three-story manor house, located on Carriage Ford Road near Nokesville, was constructed in 1750 and restored in 1956 by Colvin and her late husband.

Pilgrim's Rest has been designated by the Prince William County Historical Commission as a local historical landmark and is marked with one of the commission's distinctive insignia.

The original house features a double 50-foot high chimney of Flemish bond masonry. The chimney services four fireplaces, three of which are in use. The fourth fireplace has been enclosed

but could easily be made operable according to Key Properties' Joseph Coleman who listed Pilgrim's Rest for sale. The framework of the house is oak, and the extra-wide siding on the exterior is applied in ship-lap style. Brick and mortar between the studs in the second floor level serve as insulation.

The house contains the original flooring, plaster, mantels, panelling and 8-by-10-inch window panes. The first floor of the structure also features chair rail height panelling throughout and 11 1/2 foot high ceilings. Until 1850 the kitchen was in the yard.

Bars of virgin timber are still used to lock the doors. An old story is told that the master of the house would send his family out, place the bars across the doors and leave through a secret passage which still exists.

At the end of the 33-foot hall is a concealed stairway which is relatively rare in colonial architecture. The purpose of this enclosed staircase was to keep the hall unobstructed to prevailing winds in the summer.

Pilgrim's Rest has been continuously occupied as a private residence since it was built by Henry Fitzhugh (1697-1738) on part of 1,000 acres conveyed to him by Samuel Hayward, heir to Nicholas Hayward, one of the original proprietors of the 30,000-acre Brent Town Tract. The land represented the Hayward quarter of the Brent Town Tract located on Cedar Run, east of Catlett.

Even though Fitzhugh built the house, it is uncertain whether he actually lived there. However, his sons, John and Thomas, did as the house has been identified as the residence of Thomas Fitzhugh (1725-1768).

The property later passed to Henry Dade Hooe and continued to be listed as his estate until 1843 when it passed to Alexander S. Grigsby. It was acquired in 1849 by the Rev. Levi H. Hazen, a Methodist minister, and renamed Mount Wesley.

The original name was restored to the house by Hazen's grandson, Melvin Cat-

lin Hazen, president of the District of Columbia's Board of Commissioners. In 1956 Pilgrim's Rest was completely restored and a one-story wing added by the owners, Dr. and Mrs. H. Lynn Colvin. Mrs. Colvin, a widow, presently lives in the residence.

"Why am I considering selling? I am a senior citizen living in a house larger than I need," stated Mrs. Colvin.

The historic house contains a center hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, one bedroom, a bath, linen closet, pantry and coat closet on the first floor. The second floor has three bedrooms and a bath while the top floor contains two rooms.

The tract covers 82 acres. It also features a second house, used as rental property; an ice house, two hog houses, a two-car garage, a hay barn, corn shed and chider block machine shed. The garage also has a 10,000 kilowatt automatic generator.

Part of the estate lies in Fauquier County. The county line passes between the house and entrance gate.



Pilgrims Rest - 1750