

English Exploration and Settlement; Settlement of Virginia and Maryland

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

ST	Virginia
COUNTY:	Surry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:	Bacon's Castle
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Bacon's Castle (Arthur Allen House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
Bacon's Castle			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Bacon's Castle		Fourth (4)	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Surry	181

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building(s) ☐ Structure ☐ Both	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☐ Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☒ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)	☐ Comments	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities
STREET AND NUMBER:	c/o John Marshall Hotel
CITY OR TOWN:	Richmond
STATE:	Virginia
CODE	51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	Surry
STATE:	Virginia
CODE	51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY:	☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Library of Congress/Annex
STREET AND NUMBER:	Prints and Photographs Division
CITY OR TOWN:	Washington
STATE:	D. C.
CODE	11

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bacon's Castle is the earliest extant example of the cross plan in America. It is an English bond brick Tudor building, with a 46'1 1/2" five-bay front. It is 25'8" wide with two stories and a curvilinear gable roof. There are two exterior end chimney units, each consisting of three stacks set diagonally to each other. It contains a two-story closed porch and a two-story stair tower. It was built by Arthur Allen, probably in the early 1660s. Extensive alterations were made in the 19th century; a two-story brick Federalist addition was made on the east end. The door was removed from under the third bay and replaced by a window. A new door was put in the connecting section between the original building and the Federalist addition.

Bacon's Castle was recently acquired by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), and an ambitious restoration program is already underway. The first priority item is replacing the door in its original position. Later partitions are being removed in order to restore the original great hall and small parlor. Also undergoing restoration are the large cellar, containing several rooms and an eight-foot-wide fireplace. The two large second-story bedrooms and the three bedrooms in the garret are being worked on as well.

A whole series of working outbuildings are being restored north of the main house, but these did not exist in the seventeenth century. The last virgin timberland in Virginia, north of the property acquired by the APVA predates Bacon's Castle by many centuries. It is presently being removed for commercial purposes.

When restoration is complete, the APVA plans to open the house to the public. There are no present plans to remove the Federalist addition to another site; although it is fine architecture in its own right it displays no unity with the original house, and is of course, completely non-historic for the period this site represents.

Boundaries:

No records exist for the original boundaries of Bacon's Castle. The present lines for the landmark site must necessarily be somewhat arbitrary. They include the land purchased by the APVA and a sufficient area north to preserve some of the forest which was undoubtedly a large part of the original Bacon's Castle property and vista. As shown by the red line on the accompanying sketch map A entitled "Bacon's Castle" and dated October 30, 1974, from a point at the junction of Va. Routes 617 and a dirt service road, about 400 meters east of the junction of routes 10 and 617, proceed north along the dirt road about 570 meters to where another dirt road leads off in an easterly direction; proceed northeast about 150 meters to the source of the west branch of Castle Mill Run. Proceed about 650 meters along the run to a point about 250 meters due west of an old deserted house at the end of the easterly-running dirt service road. Proceed due east about 900 meters to the east branch of Castle Mill Run, then along the run about 700 meters along the east branch. Thence south about 340 meters to Route 617, then west about 1140 meters along the north curbline to the point of beginning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☒ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1676-1677

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bacon's Castle was used as a fortress by rebel troops during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. It represents the first instance of violent resistance to British colonial exploitation in America. The house was built by Arthur Allen, probably in the early 1660s. It is one of very few Tudor style homes in America, and the earliest extant example of the cross plan in this country.

History: Bacon's Castle was a center of resistance for rebel soldiers during Bacon's Rebellion of 1676-77. The Royal Governor, Sir William Berkeley, had ruled Virginia in an oppressive and corrupt manner since 1644. In 1676, Berkeley's inability to protect the colonists during an outbreak of Indian raids precipitated a large scale revolt. Nathaniel Bacon, a young nobleman, forcibly extracted a commission to fight the Indians. At the same time, the so-called "Bacon's Laws" were passed by the Assembly under the threat of Bacon's frontier army.

Although they were repealed the following year, Bacon's Laws constitute a landmark in the development of self-government in Virginia. They gave suffrage to all freemen; they gave the voters representation in the county courts in assessing taxes; they ended self-perpetuating vestries, fixed the fees of many public officials, prevented sheriffs from serving more than one year at a time, or any official from holding two offices simultaneously; members of the Governor's Council were barred from sitting on the county courts.

When Bacon left Jamestown with his army to fight the Indians, Governor Berkeley declared his commission void, and Bacon himself a rebel. His efforts to raise a force opposing Bacon were entirely futile, and Bacon issued a proclamation declaring Berkeley the traitor, and demanding his surrender. Berkeley and his followers fled the capital, and for a time Bacon controlled all Virginia west of Chesapeake Bay.

Bacon led an expedition into the woods and swamps of upper Gloucester and Middlesex, where he destroyed the power of the Pamunkey Indians. He then returned to Jamestown, which Berkeley had reoccupied with 200 men. Bacon had only a little more than 100 with him at that time, but they routed the Governor's forces and forced him to flee once again to the Eastern Shore. Bacon was preparing his territory for defense against loyal colonial and British troops when he died of dysentery, October 26, 1676.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of The Early Republic (New York, 1922).
 Foreman, Henry C., The Architecture of the Old South: The Medieval Style 1585-1850 (Cambridge, 1948).
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
 Wertenbaker, Thomas J., Virginia Under the Stuarts, 1607-1688 (Princeton, 1914).
 Wertenbaker, Thomas J., Bacon's Rebellion, 1676 (Williamsburg, 1957).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LONGITUDE			LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
UTM	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		
NW	18.346590.4108920	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0		
NE	18.347860.4108920	0 0 0				
SE	18.347810.4107820	0 0 0				
SW	18.346460.4107810	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 300

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: 1/24/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)	
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐ Name <u>Wm. R. Kuper</u> Title <u>Keeper, W.R.</u> Date <u>5/12/77</u> (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)		I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. <u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Date <u>12/12/76</u> ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register Date <u>12/6/76</u>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Surry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Bacon's Castle

(Continuation Sheet)

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Major Arthur Allen's house had been siezed and fortified in mid-September 1676; this is the origin of its present name, "Bacon's Castle." The garrison stationed there controlled the south James area for three months while their cause declined. Bacon's death left his forces under the leadership of Joseph Ingram, who proved to be an ineffective commander. Ingram dispersed his army in small garrisons, which eased the supply problem but permitted their defeat in detail. The inability of the colony to feed itself doomed its defenders. Berkeley began to conquer the isolated posts one by one, some by force and others by persuasion; most of the leaders were executed with horrible brutality. By January, 1677, the rebellion was over. Nevertheless, it is a landmark in the developing independence of the American colonies, demonstrating how ready they were to resist oppression, and how far they had to go in achieving the economic independence necessary for that resistance to be effective.

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