

A Place So Sacred

To the Telling of Our History



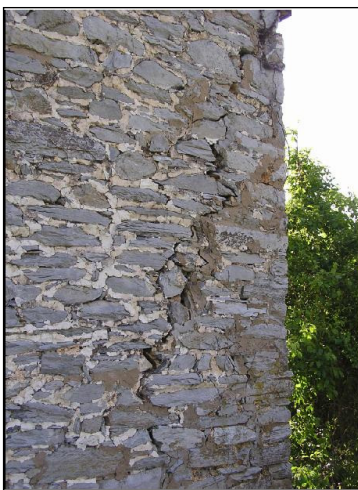
Greenway Court, Land Office of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, ca. 1910

We Must Act Now or Lose It...

The Project

Under the auspices of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Branch of Preservation Virginia (formerly the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities), our goal is the stabilization and preservation of three surviving outbuildings at Greenway Court, home of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, 6th Baron Cameron, located outside of White Post, Virginia. These structures are Fairfax's ca. 1761 stone land office, a mid-18th-century log powder house/smokehouse, and a ca. 1830 stone carriage house, constructed using materials from Fairfax's original house.

The National Historic Landmark (NHL) land office is in acute danger of collapse if not immediately stabilized. This is one of the earliest structures in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and the only known one of its type.



Once stabilized using skilled craftsmen, the building will be maintained as an artifact for educational purposes and as a unique historic resource of Colonial America. These buildings are vital part of the history of Clarke County that demand our attention before we lose them.

The History

Greenway Court was the home of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, 6th Baron Cameron. It was the seat of his 1600 square mile Northern Neck Proprietary (5.7 million acres), located between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. Greenway Court was a significant center of colonial business and social activity in Northern Virginia. In 1752 Lord Fairfax fixed his residence at Greenway Court near White Post in Clarke County. He lived there until his death in 1781 at age 88.

In 1748, he met George Washington, then a youth of 16. Impressed with Washington's energy and talents, Lord Fairfax employed him to survey his landholdings. Washington was a frequent visitor at Greenway Court during his early surveying and military years and considered Lord Fairfax a mentor and patron.

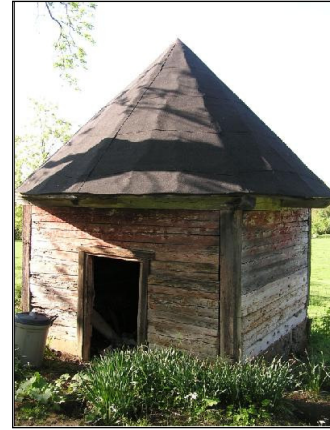
Lord Fairfax constructed the 28'x18' stone office building in 1761, which allowed him to move his proprietary's principal land office to Greenway Court, from Belvoir in Fairfax County. Not only does the rare building type have architectural significance as a fairly intact mid-18th-century structure, it has great historical significance as the center of land distribution for much of the western settlement of Virginia. The building, where so many land transactions took place, along with its association with Lord Fairfax himself, is one of the nation's leading landmarks.

The Ownership

Greenway Court is held in conservation easement in a unique ownership arrangement. The property is currently held in a family trust established for three brothers in their 20's, whose parents passed away earlier in this decade. Shortly before his death in 2003, their father signed a conservation easement agreement with Clarke County. Co-held with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), it allows the County to conduct necessary rehabilitation and archaeological work on the three historic buildings at Greenway Court, it significantly limits residential development on the surrounding farm, and it permits generous periodic public and professional access (through the County). This generation of owners is fully aware of the historic value of these nationally-significant structures and all parties seek to create what could become a national model for site sustainability, with private ownership, public access both direct and indirect, and governmental and volunteer support.



This is the log Powder House/Meat House of the mid 18th century which still survives. It is a very rare form.



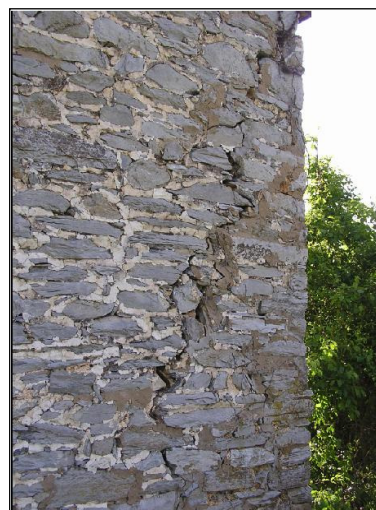
The stone Stable/Carriage House (1830's), using materials from the Lord Fairfax's original house.



This is

the front of the

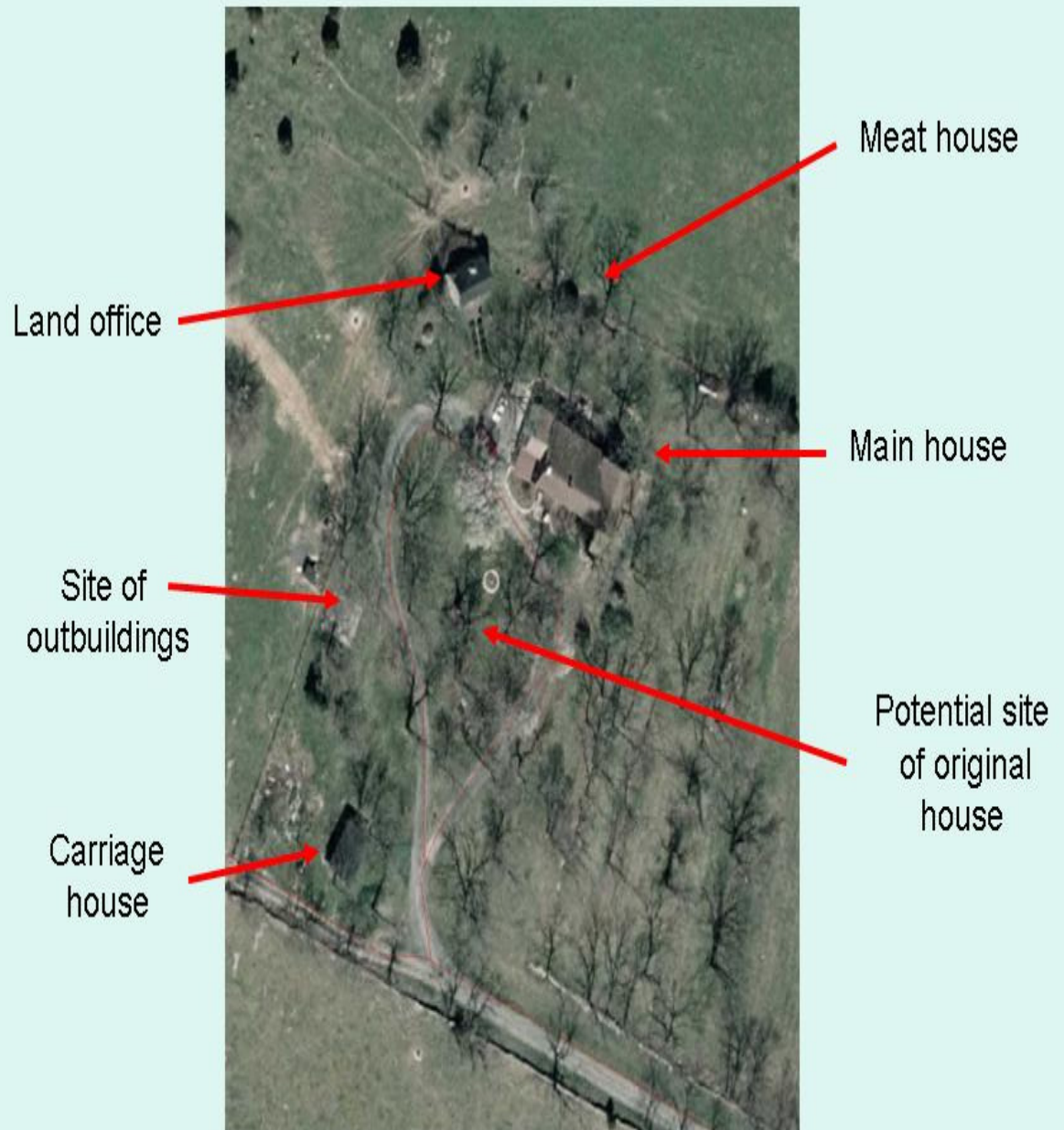
land office of 1761. The side of the structure indicates a major structural failure with a vertical crack in the stonework from the far corner almost to the base.



Greenway Court Aerial View

The Main House on the site (the Kennerly House, 1830's) is occupied by the owners.

The archeological remains of Lord Fairfax's 100 foot-long house (last used as a slave quarters and pulled down in the 1850's), and the clapboard cabin he preferred to live in, are in the courtyard oval formed by the driveway.



The Rescue Funding Effort

In March of 2007, the Virginia General Assembly awarded a matching fund grant to Clarke County for \$47,500 toward the stabilization and preservation work at Greenway Court. **To receive these funds, they must be matched dollar-for-dollar before June 25, 2009.** Foundation grants were sought to accomplish this match but none were tendered.

We seek funding for a Phase I/Rescue Effort for the Land Office and Powder House/Meat House. It is critical that this work be done as soon as the funding is available. The goal for Phase I is \$47,500 with which to match and draw down the full \$47,500 granted by the General Assembly (on the condition of the 1 for 1 match). If we are successful, a total of \$95,000 will thus be available for the Phase I Rescue Effort.

We now turn to the community for help – everyone stands to lose if we are not successful in saving these historically irreplaceable structures.

Cash gifts will be matched by the General Assembly's grant to Clarke County. Gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law and are being accepted through the local chapter of Preservation Virginia.

PLEDGES can only be accepted for Phase II and future phases of the project. The scope of this future work is currently under study.

Rescue Effort Funding

Continued



Your help is needed, now. We hope you will respond generously to our request by filling out the form on the next page and returning it in the envelope provided.

Gift Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

_____ Yes, I would like to support your efforts and join one of the three giving circles with a gift of \$ _____

*Carriage House Circle – Gifts of \$1,000 and up

*Powder House Circle – Gifts of \$2,500 and up

*Land Office Circle – Gifts of \$5,000 and up

_____ I would like to make a gift and enclose my check for \$ _____

_____ I would like to PLEDGE some of my gift and understand that only that amount I pay by June 25 will qualify for the match. The remainder can be paid by mutual agreement.

The Details

Gifts of stock and cash can be accepted. For more information about transferring stock, contact

Robert Stieg – (540) 837-2790

*President, Northern Shenandoah Valley Branch,
Preservation Virginia*

Make checks payable to
Preservation Virginia –NSV Branch-
Greenway Court Fund
P.O. Box 14, Boyce, VA 22620

Your tax deductible donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar and will serve to save a precious historic artifact of Clarke County and of Colonial Virginia.

Let us thank you for your generous gift by putting your name on a plaque inside the Land Office*:

*Carriage House Circle – Gifts of \$1,000 and up

*Powder House Circle – Gifts of \$2,500 and up

*Land Office Circle – Gifts of \$5,000 and up

*All gifts will be gratefully accepted and the names placed
in a Donor Book of Honor.*

Historic Timeline

Highlights

1781

Lord Fairfax dies and land and property are given to nephew Thomas Bryan Martin

1845

Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of Virginia* (originally published in 1845) has a description of Greenway Court from a visit Howe made: “His lordship lived and died in a single clap-board story and a half house which stood just in front of the modern brick dwelling of Mr. Kennerly, and was destroyed in 1834. There are now several of the original buildings standing at the place: among them is a small limestone structure, where quit-rents were given and titles drawn, of his lordship’s domains.”

1853 October 18

Washington Irving visits Greenway Court with John Pendleton Kennedy. According to *Life of John Pendelton Kennedy*, Kennedy wrote of his visit: “...principal building, erected by Lord Fairfax still standing, though much broken down and decayed. It is a long, one-storied structure nearly one hundred feet in length...it has dormer windows in the roof, two belfries...as the building is of stone. This house is now a Negro quarter. It was originally appropriated by Lord Fairfax to the entertainment of his guests. He did not live in it himself, preferring a small cabin of the simplest structure, made of clapboards... which stood immediately in front of the present brick dwelling house, which the former Mr. Kennerly built about twenty years ago...Among these, in tolerable good preservation, is the old land-office in which Lord Fairfax transacted his business. There is also the old coach house, which tradition says his lordship built around and over a superb English coach, which he imported from London and never used...”

1925-1926

Correspondence between Miss Kennerly and Graham F. Blandy concerning restoration of Land Office [Clarke County Historical Association Collection].

1925, July 20:

Letter from Nelly C. Kennerly to Graham F. Blandy about wanting to repair “the stone office on my lawn formerly occupied by George Washington”. Blandy agrees to help and sets up an account at the

Shenandoah Valley National Bank for donations to repair the building [Clarke County Historical Association Collection].

1926

Graham F. Blandy dies. Undated article in newspaper (perhaps *Winchester Star*) Death of Mr. Blandy Halts Efforts to Raise Funds to Restore Hut Washington Used While Working For Lord Fairfax [Clarke County Historical Association Collection] "...Attention has been directed toward this historic spot since Graham F. Blandy, of Boyce, VA., and New York, is trying to raise funds to restore this building and open it to the public. The little stone hut is used as a meat house and stands inconspicuously in the rear of this dwelling at the Greenway Court, the home of Misses Kennerly. The antique building has two rooms, one a recorder's office and the other a court room, which are plastered and contain a huge fireplace."

Ca. 1928

Papers showing intent of owners Mrs. May Kennerly Skinker that the estate "be acquired by Federal, State, or patriotic organization or by individual acquisition to be maintained as a national shrine."

1932, March 8

The Clarke Courier

"Mrs. Kenneth Gilpin is the chairman of the committee in charge of the work of collecting as many articles of historic value associated with the career of Washington as a surveyor....the Misses Kennerly offered the use of the Washington and Fairfax "office building" to the committee as a temporary museum..."

1940, October 7

A proposal for the Development of Greenway Court The home of Thomas Lord Fairfax in Clarke County Virginia. Submitted by B. Floyd Flickinger Winchester, Virginia [Clarke County Historical Association Collection]. Other records in this file show there was interest by the CCHA around this time to reconstruct Lord Fairfax's house- a project that was never completed.

2003 July

Clarke County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority purchased a conservation easement on the Greenway Court property that included protecting the three historic outbuildings (not the main house).

2009 May

Citizen's Group forms to raise matching funds to preserve Land Office ...

The Committee

- *Chair*, Robert Stieg, President, Northern Shenandoah Valley Branch,
Preservation Virginia
- Douglas Bartley, Vice-President, Clarke County Historical
Association
- Frances Crawford, Development Director, Museum of the
Shenandoah Valley
- Carolyn Farouki, Art Historian
- Lucia Henderson, Vice-Regent, Mount Vernon Ladies' Association
- Charles Johnston, Planning Director, Clarke County, and liaison for
the Board of Supervisors (easement holder on Greenway Court)
- Maral Kalbian, Architectural Historian for Clarke County
- Matthew, and Winkie Mackay-Smith (Chair, Clarke County
Easement Authority)
- Betty Schutte, former President, Garden Club of Virginia
- Nancy St. C. Talley, Lifetime Achievement Award, Clarke County
Historic Preservation Commission

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Branch of Preservation Virginia, representing the Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, Warren and the City of Winchester, was organized in 2008. It adopted as its first direct service project, in addition to preservation advocacy and networking throughout the Branch, coordination of activities for the stabilization of Greenway Court, an endangered National Historic Landmark significant to the entire region.

Project Funding Details

Total Project	\$ 95,000
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Qualifying Match	\$47,500
From Commonwealth of Virginia	

Total cash contributions (6-12-09)	\$24,488
in hand toward qualifying match	

Needed to raise by June 25: \$23,012 (deadline for claiming State match)
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