

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Germanna

AND/OR COMMON
Germanna

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
[REDACTED]

CITY, TOWN Flat Run

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7, J. Kenneth Robinson

STATE Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Orange

CODE
137

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Ray Glazebrook

STREET & NUMBER
1809 William Street

CITY, TOWN Frederickburg

VICINITY OF

STATE Virginia 22401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Orange,

STATE Virginia 22960

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission File 68-43,44,45

DATE 1969
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

CITY, TOWN College of William and Mary
Williamsburg,

STATE Virginia 23186

Wren Kitchen

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John Fontaine, when he visited Germanna on November 21, 1715, described the German settlement as situated on a hilltop.

"We walked about the town which is pallisaded with stakes stuck in the ground, and laid close the one to the other, of substance to bear out a musket shot. There is but nine families and they have nine houses built in a line, and before every house about 20 feet from the house they have small sheds built for their hogs and hens, so that the hog stys and houses make a street. This place that is paled in is a pentagon, very regularly laid out, and in the very center there is a block house made with five sides which answers to the five sides of pales of great enclosure. There is a loop through it, from which you may see all the inside of the inclosure. This was intended for retreat for the people in case they were not able to defend the pallisadoes if attacked by the Indians."¹

In 1732 William Byrd II offers a further description of Germanna in his Progress To the Mines when he discusses his visit to Col. Spotswood. "This famous town consists of Col. Spotswood's enchanted castle on one side of the street and a baker's dozen of ruinous tenements on the other, where so many German families had dwelt some year ago....There had also been a chapel about a bowshot from the Colonel's house at the end of an avenue of cherry trees, but some pious people had lately burnt it down, with the intent to get another built neraer to theor own homes."

Recent archaeological test excavations by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology have uncovered a brick foundation approximately 90 feet in length and extending to a depth of six feet below modern grade; at this lower depth a brick tiled floor was encountered. Brick foundations of two outbuildings were also located. These remains are part of a substantial eighteenth-century plantation complex believed to have belonged to Governor Alexander Spotswood. Excavations suggest that the Spotswood mansion burned during the mid-eighteenth century and was subsequently backfilled. (Photo #1).

1. Journal of John Fontaine 1710-1719, ed. by E.P. Alexander (CWI, Uva, Press, Char, 1922)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The substantial eighteenth-century plantation complex located at Germanna, believed to have been the home of Colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood, is thought to be one of the most significant archaeological finds in Virginia. Having been burned in the mid-eighteenth century and subsequently backfilled, the cellar is a time capsule capable of providing considerable insight into the material culture of an eighteenth-century Royal Governor. Spotswood apparently attempted to recreate the elegance and sophistication of the tidewater plantation system in a rustic, remote environment when he constructed his home ca. 1724.

William Byrd, when he visited Spotswood in September 1732, called the mansion "an enchanted castle." In his writings, Byrd described the opulently furnished house and elaborately terraced garden. Spotswood, himself, in an October 26, 1732 ad in The Virginia Gazette, refers to his household furnishings as choice. The November 26, 1741 inventory of Alexander Spotswood's personal effects at Germanna, subsequent to his death in June 1740, lists an array of household equipment well worthy of furnishing an enchanted castle. The Virginia Research Center for Archaeology's preliminary archaeological investigations at the mansion site have revealed a quantity of extremely fine Chinese procelain, reaffirming Byrd's description and relating to the inventory. A room of Spotswood's served for a time as the Spotsylvania County Courthouse.

According to Byrd's 1732 writings, across the road from the enchanted castle were the remains of "a baker's dozen of ruinous tenements...where so many German families had dwelt some years ago but are now removed."¹ This statement refers to a settlement established in 1714 by Governor Spotswood, when he placed twelve German families on that site, where he built them a fort which was, according to Spotswood, "a good Barrier for all that part of the Country."² The German workers were put to work in Spotswood's nearby iron mines and their settlement became known as Germanna.

When John Fontaine visited Fort Germanna on November 21, 1715, he wrote in his Journal that "the Germans live very miserably," along with their livestock, within a pentagonal palisade. It was at this time that the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe embarked from Germanna on their transmontane journey. A few years later these settlers left Spotswood tract in order to patent property themselves. Subsequent German migrations, in 1717 and again in 1719, ended similarly with the families departing as soon as they considered their legal obligation to Spotswood fulfilled.

The early eighteenth-century archaeological sites at Germanna offer a unique opportunity to study two dissimilar, but nearly contemporaneous, cultural components responding independently to a similar environment. As well, the Germanna area holds nineteenth-century significance as a portion of the land was involved

(See continuation sheet # 1)

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Germanda, Orange County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET # 1

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PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE

in the May 1864 Civil War Wilderness Campaigns. Located nearby are the sites of the Germanda mills and ferry.

MWM

1. Progress to the Mines, in the year 1732, William Byrd, II, printed in A History of Orange County by W.W. Scott (Richmond, 1907) Everett Wadley Co.

2. The Official Letters of Alexander Spotswood, Vol. II, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, 1882

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Germans, Orange County, Virginia

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Germania

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Germania, Orange County, Va

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During test excavations conducted at the site traditionally thought to be the location of Spotswood's Enchanted Castle, the remains of an appropriately dated substantial plantation complex was encountered. This location is depicted on the maps of John Baptiste Homann, 1714, John Wood, 1821, John Henry, 1770, James Madison, 1807 and Jefferson-Brook, 1736. The sophisticated lifestyle reflected by the inventory Spotswood is also reflected in the artifacts recovered during the test excavation. An example is a quantity of Chinese porcelain mentioned in the inventory, and as well found during testing.

Germanna

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Germanna, Orange County, Va

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Please note that according to the primary resources cited in Item 7 of the nomination form, the German village was extant on November 21, 1715 when John Fontaine visited the site and was vacant and falling into ruin by 1732 when William Byrd II visited Governor Spotswood at his Germanna home. We did not indicate the location of the mines and smelting area, as they were many miles down river.

Germanna

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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Germanna, Orange County, Va

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We have not included an overall photograph because due to the angle of overgrowth at the site, a photograph was not really informative. Enclosed is a sketch map depicting the components receiving archaeological survey. The 120 acres nominated were intended to include the German village, (please note in Item 7 the quotation from William Byrd, II states that the village is across from Spotswood's Mansion), as well as the Germanna Mills, Ferry, and Bridge, which were the scene of considerable Civil War activity. The mills, ferry, and bridge are shown on some maps and cited in the smendment to Item 7 and as well are depicted on a map in the Official Atlas of the Civil War. You will find enclosed a site plan resulting from our test excavations at Germanna.